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Cannabis job fair draws a crowd

Company organizes event to fill openings in tight, competitive labor market

By Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

ROCKY HILL — Organizers of a two-day cannabis employment fair in Rocky Hill said they expected about 100 job-seekers, a decent number in a growing industry that's also benefiting from the tightest labor market in decades.

Stephen Nitchke-Ellison retired as a manager four years ago at a wholesale distributor of communications and networking products and is looking to get back into the workforce so his wife can soon retire. A medicinal marijuana user to soothe chronic back pain for the last seven years, he said he's had an enduring interest in cannabis.

"I want to learn from the bottom up," Nitchke-Ellison, a Milford resident, said this week. "I'm ready to work. If you put me in a station and tell me what to do I'll do it all day."

Verano Holdings Corp., a multi-state cannabis operation, organized the job fair to fill dispensary retail and cultivation jobs. It operates CTPharma, a 210,000-square-foot cultivation and processing facility in Rocky Hill, and two retail outlets in Meriden and Waterbury.

Verano is considering additional retail options in Connecticut, including social equity joint venture dispensary partnerships and opportunities "for wider distribution of its products ahead of the state's transition to adult-use cannabis sales," a

Turn to Hiring, Page 3



Connecticut legalized adult-use marijuana last year and businesses are competing for state licenses and the industry has yet to take shape. **FILE**

Capital Prep alum secures millions in scholarships

Former student helps students even the college acceptance playing field

By Ted Glanzer
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — When she first walked through the doors at Capital Prep as a sixth grader, Nyasia White couldn't have imagined seven years later that she would be attending Trinity College on a scholarship and would be nicknamed "Full Ride" by her family.

Actually, on her first day at Capital Prep, a pre-K through 12th grade magnet school, White didn't think she would stay very long.

"I didn't think I would still be here," said White, who recently graduated. "Middle school was an experience. I was ready to get out of here. But I gutted it out and I'm here. ... This is a home here. It's deeper than anything for me. There are a lot of people here, you made it with them. It's a big deal."

In addition to being the first person in her immediate family to go to college, she's also one of 36 Capital Prep students who earned an aggregate of \$27 million

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Seattle Storm point guard Sue Bird reacts during the second half of a game against the Los Angeles Sparks at Climate Pledge Arena on May 20 in Seattle. **STEPH CHAMBERS/GETTY IMAGES**

Bird flying the coop

Champ can leave women's basketball knowing her impact will be felt forever

By Dom Amore

Sue Bird didn't have one of those eye-opening moments many athletes have when they near the end, one of those moments when the mind and the eye see daylight but the body can't quite get there.

"No," she laughed, "I've been having those moments for years."

Any decline in her skills has been so gradual as to be imperceptible as she crossed 40 and kept going. Even at age 41, she's averaging 31.4 minutes, 7.8 points, 6.6 assists per game for the Seattle Storm this season. But she has always been able to see the game in ways others cannot, and she knew the time to retire had come.

"I've played the game as long as I could at a high level," she said, in a small room in Mohegan Sun Arena, staging point for a press conference with international significance. "And I"

There came the first of several long pauses as Bird searched, not for the right words — her pitch was perfect — but for her composure. Someone brought water. "Does water stop you from crying?" she asked. Then someone brought tissues.

Bird joined UConn just after its undefeated 1995 season had broken ground, and she led the Huskies to the top to stay. Then she played 21 years in the WNBA, all with one team, won four championships, playing a large role in making it mainstream. And she played on five gold medal U.S. Olympic teams.

It's a lot to look back on with reason to be glad it happened, and sad because it's over. But it will never really be over; people will talk about Sue Bird as long as the game is played.

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More inside

- Former UConn star announces Thursday that this season will be her last one in the WNBA.
- Lori Riley: Epic journey for sports icon.

SPORTS, PAGE 1



All-time great Sue Bird announced she will be retiring at the end of the current WNBA season at a press conference at Mohegan Sun Arena on Thursday. **COURTESY OF MOHEGAN SUN**

BY THE NUMBERS

From UConn championships to Olympic golds to WNBA records

By Joe Arruda | Hartford Courant

UConn women's basketball legend Sue Bird announced Thursday that she will retire from the WNBA after the 2022 season.

Over the course of her career, Bird has averaged 11.9 points, 5.6 assists and 1.3 steals per game. On the international level, the 5-foot-9 guard has helped USA Basketball to five Olympic gold medals and four FIBA world championships. After the 2021 season, Bird was second, only behind second-year sensation Sabrina Ionescu in jersey sales.

Bird played 19 seasons in the WNBA after being drafted No. 1 overall by the Seattle Storm in 2002. Here are her college, Olympic and WNBA career milestones by the numbers:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Bird was UConn's first-ever No. 1 overall WNBA draft pick. | 4 With the Seattle Storm throughout her entire WNBA career, Bird was part of four WNBA finals-winning teams. She also won the FIBA world championship four different times (2002, 2010, 2014, 2018). |
| 2 Bird won a pair of national championships with UConn in 2000 and 2002 and received the Nancy Lieberman award twice (2001, 2002). | 5 Bird won five Olympic gold medals with USA Basketball (2004, 2008, 2012, 2016 and 2020). She has been selected to the All-WNBA First Team five times, which is tied for fifth. |
| 3 Not only was Bird the WNBA regular-season assist leader three times (2005, 2009, 2016), she also won three Kim Perrot Sportsmanship Awards (2018, 2017, 2011). | |

Turn to Numbers, Page 3

Trump advisers: Plan 'nuts,' 'crazy'

Jan. 6 testimony shows danger Pence faced from rioters

By Lisa Mascaro and Mary Clare Jalonick
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump's closest advisers viewed his last-ditch efforts pressuring Vice President Mike Pence to halt congressional certification of his

2020 election defeat as "nuts," "crazy" and even likely to incite riots if Pence followed through, witnesses revealed in testimony to the Jan. 6 committee Thursday.

New evidence disclosed Trump's heated conversation deriding Pence with vulgar names on the morning of Jan. 6, 2021, before the defeated president took the stage at a rally near the White House. From there, he sent his supporters to the U.S. Capitol to "fight like hell" as the vice president was to preside over a joint session.

The panel highlighted the danger to Pence as rioters came within 40 feet of the place at the Capitol where he and others had been evacuated.

Never-before-shown photos showed Pence and his team sheltering.

"He deserves to be burned with the rest of them," one rioter said on video.

Pence's counsel Greg Jacob testified he could "hear the din" of the rioters. Asked

Turn to Plan, Page 3

Bristol Hospital reduces management staff

Buffeted by the pandemic as well as spiking labor costs, Bristol Hospital on Thursday laid off 10 managers and cut 21 vacant jobs to help save \$3.9 million this year. **Connecticut, Page 1**

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Alum

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in scholarships. How much of that money is put toward students' education depends on where, and if, students go to college.

Jayden Senior and Isaiah Sarpong are also among that group. Senior will attend New York University to study mechanical engineering, and Sarpong is headed to Boston University in the fall to study computer science.

Both come from families where attending college is outside the norm. Senior's mother has an associate's degree and is working toward a four-year degree, and Sarpong's brother is attending college in Kentucky.

They're building their own legacies.

"When I first got the acceptance letter [to NYU], I jumped up in my chair," Senior said.

During an impassioned speech at Capital Prep's graduation, Jordan Green, the school's director of college and career readiness, highlighted the students who were accepted to college and the amount of financial aid they qualified for.

"That is special," Green said during commencement. "That is phenomenal. As you guys go on, I want you guys to remember the excellence that happened — capture it in a bottle. If you remember one thing: Feelings come and go, but consequences last."

In an interview a short time after his speech, Green explained the importance of noting that 41% of the school's graduating class had been accepted to college on full scholarships.

"When you are around the area ... you see so many things that are negative," Green said. "You live in these areas and they're going home and they didn't think any of these things were possible. To just show the hard work of the students, the amount of money these outside scholarships gave them. ... It was important to highlight because a lot of these students ... they didn't think they were getting into NYU and to be able to go there for free."

In terms of education, a major difference between students who live in more affluent communities and White, Senior, Sarpong and their fellow graduates, is expectations.

White — the Trinity-bound graduate — applied to 30 different schools, not because of profligacy but because of self-doubt. Students



Capital Prep's director of college and career readiness Jordan Green, left, has instilled a mentality in the school's students that they not only have earned a seat at the higher-education table, but they belong there. **TED GLANZER/HARTFORD COURANT**

at Capital Prep have their college application fees waived, White said.

"I was scared I wouldn't get in," White said.

Enter Green, a vessel of positivity who has been at his job at Capital Prep for a year. His mission is to wash away students' angst and instill a mentality that they not only have earned a seat at the higher-education table, but that they belong there and they'll thrive.

"The anxiety and the fears of rejection from these schools, that doesn't change your value," he said. "Whether you get accepted, whether you get this full ride or not, you are still whole and you still have possibility. The key goal was to get these students to be alive to the fluidity of their existence. I want them to understand that there are so many possibilities, and your constraints and your environment and your community, they are a burden. There are forces that try to keep things status quo. But there might be ways for us to override them."

It wasn't long ago that Green was one of those students. He grew up in Hartford and first attended

the University of Hartford, accumulating a significant amount of debt before an adviser told him to transfer to Trinity, which offered him more financial aid.

"I'm a first-generation student who comes from a single-parent home," he said. "I didn't meet my father until I was 22 by accident at a funeral. To go through my experiences being in this area, it honestly lit a fire in me. I had people to support me. ... When I left [Trinity] it crystalized I did not need to leave with this student loan debt. ... I don't want students who come from these disadvantaged backgrounds like I came from to experience it. To carry the burden."

Once the students are in college, Green and other organizations such as Hartford Promise, a college scholarship and success program for Hartford Public School students, provide additional support.

That could range from a pep talk or text to providing, at a student's request, mental-health referrals.

"I make sure I keep my lines open to as many students as possible," Green said. "Checking in on

students that I have. As a first-generation student, when I was on campus, the culture shock, even though I was in Hartford, Trinity was a whole different place."

And while Green is proud of his Capital Prep charges, he also notes that they wouldn't be newsworthy in other communities. One of his goals is to make college acceptance so routine as to not be a story at all.

He also notes the significant institutional barriers outside the school system.

"This is beyond education; this goes into understanding how our society keeps things status quo," he said. "This feel-good story is beautiful. But it's not enough. We need to make sure we are going into all of the social institutions with this type of change, whether it be the health-care system, where there are vast disparities that lead to lower life expectancies; whether it be the criminal justice system, where your income and your skin color can determine the length of your sentence. We have the housing market, who gets priced out and who is benefitting from these pricing outs."

"You go into any social institution you will see a social inequality. While this is a great movement, think about why this is a great movement. If this happened at Phillips Exeter or if this happened at Kingswood, that's expected over there. It's expected of them having an Ivy League kid. It's expected of them to go to Vanderbilt, and to Vassar and to Wesleyan and to Trinity. When you look at a school like this, this is exceptional. What we do, what we want at this school is to get to the point where this is the norm."

Senior, Sarpong and White are working to make that happen. Now they have a new label to contend with — first-year college students — and all of the anxiety and excitement that comes with it.

Sarpong, for his part, is ready.

"The next four years are going to be amazing," he said. "I'm looking forward to meeting so many new people, forming new relationships. I can't wait to get out there and meet people."

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LOTTERY

Thursday, June 16

PLAY3 DAY	PLAY4 DAY
5 7 9 WB: 3	2 2 4 9 WB: 1

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

WEDNESDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT 6 3 9 WB: 8
PLAY4 NIGHT 2 8 2 1 WB: 7
CASH 5 4 5 22 27 31
LUCKY FOR LIFE 13 17 19 32 37 LB: 13
POWERBALL 19 28 41 42 51 PB: 7 PP: 2

Tonight's est. Lotto jackpot: \$1.2M
Tonight's est. Mega Millions jackpot: \$273M
Saturday's est. Powerball jackpot: \$279M

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TRIBUNE
PUBLISHING

FROM PAGE ONE

Housing, restaurants included in proposals for barren, parking lot near The Bushnell

By Kennth R. Gosselin
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — The Capital Region Development Authority will start evaluating four proposals for a major redevelopment near The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts on the largest of a barren expanse of parking lots, a major building block to begin reconnecting Bushnell Park with city neighborhoods to the south. Michael W. Freimuth, CRDA's executive director, declined to identify the developers bidding to develop the 3-acre parking lot just east of the renovated State Office Building at 165 Capitol Ave. But he said the proposals for the Bushnell South area are similar; development costs ranging from \$90 million to \$130 million.

The proposals call for 250 to 350 units of housing, split between 80% market-rate and 20% affordable, 25,000 square feet of commercial space and various plans for parking garages. The development could be done in one chunk or be divided into phases. All the proposals would require public financing, such as loans or tax-fixing agreements, Freimuth said. Two of the developers have been active in Hartford, the other two have not, Freimuth said. The developers are based in Connecticut, New York, Boston and North Carolina, with some operations in Fairfield County, Freimuth said. Freimuth said the review of the proposals will not so much focus on the details of the proposals because they are similar, but finding a development partner that can be flexible

as the development unfolds, particularly if market conditions change. "Getting to a project and getting hung up on what it might look like and how many units (it is) and when it is started is important," Freimuth said. "But the first hurdle is getting a partner in place. Look, the market is evolving, evolving all the time, whether it's interest rates, construction costs or just design features." Freimuth said the proposals follow the vision outlined last year by a consultant. The plan called for as many as 1,200 residential units — both rented and owned — restaurants, shops and entertainment venues. The first, 3 acres is part of a larger swath of parking lots — both state and privately-owned — and would include a broad, pedestrian prom-

enade with restaurants and space for outdoor events. The promenade would be between a new park adjacent to the State Office Building and a block of apartments and townhouses. The overall vision is to foster a stronger, walkable connection between Bushnell Park, the nearby hospital district and Park Street, extending beyond to Colt Park. The proposal for the 3 acres calls for a construction timetable of 24 to 30 months, though it is not known when there would be a groundbreaking. A prime consideration also will be how quickly the hundreds of apartments being added to the downtown area are being occupied.

Contact Kenneth R. Gosselin at kgosselin@courant.com.

Plan

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if Trump checked on Pence during the siege, Jacob said: "He did not." With live testimony and other evidence from its yearlong investigation, the panel opened its third hearing this month aiming to demonstrate that Trump's repeated false claims of election fraud and desperate attempt to stay in power led directly to the Capitol insurrection. All told, the committee is pulling together a dark portrait of the end of Trump's presidency as he was left grasping for alternatives as courts turned back dozens of lawsuits challenging the vote. Trump latched onto conservative law professor John Eastman's obscure plan to defy historical precedent of the Electoral Count Act and reverse Joe Biden's victory. In public and private, Trump waged a pressure campaign that put his vice president in danger as he was to preside over the joint session of Congress to certify the election. Trump aides and allies warned bluntly in private about his efforts, even as some publicly continued to stand by the president's false claims of election fraud. Nine people died in the insurrection and its aftermath. "Are you out of your ... mind?" Eric Herschmann, a lawyer advising Trump, told Eastman in recorded testimony shown at the hearing. "You're going to turn around and tell 78-plus million people in this country that your theory is this is how you're going to invalidate their votes?" Herschmann said. He warned: "You're going to cause riots in the streets."

A text message from Fox News' Sean Hannity to Trump's chief of staff Mark Meadows about the plan in the run-up to Jan. 6 read: "I'm very worried about the next 48 hours." Trump campaign adviser Jason Miller said those around Trump called the plan "crazy." The committee has said the plan was illegal, and a federal judge has said "more likely than not" Trump committed crimes in a bid to stop the certification. In a social media post Thursday, Trump decried the hearings anew as a "witch hunt" and exclaimed, "I DEMAND EQUAL TIME!!!" On Capitol Hill, panel Chairman Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., cited Pence's own words that there was "almost no idea more un-American" than being asked to reject Americans' votes. By refusing Trump's demands, Pence "did his duty," said the panel's vice chair, Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo. The panel also heard from Jacob, the vice president's counsel who fended off Eastman's ideas for Pence, and retired federal judge Michael Luttig, who called the plan from Eastman, his former law clerk, "incorrect at every turn."

Jacob said it became clear to Pence from the start that the Founding Fathers did not intend to empower any one person, including someone running for office, to affect the election result. Pence "never budged," from that initial view, and was determined to stay at the Capitol that night and finish the job, Jacob said. Luttig, a conservative scholar, said in a halting voice but firm terms that had Pence obeyed Trump's orders, declaring "Trump as the next president would have plunged America into, what I believe, would have been tantamount to a revolution within a constitutional crisis in America."

Thursday's session presented new evidence about the danger Pence faced as rioters chanted "Hang Mike Pence" with a makeshift gallows outside the Capitol as the vice president fled with senators into hiding. The president's daughter, Ivanka Trump, testified about the "heated" phone call Trump had with Pence that morning, as the family joined in the Oval Office. Another aide, Nicholas Luna, said he heard Trump call Pence a "wimp." In another development Thursday, Thompson said the panel will ask Virginia "Ginni" Thomas, the wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, for an interview amid disclosure of her relationship with Trump.

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Recruiters met with job applicants Wednesday at a cannabis job fair in Rocky Hill. **STAFF**

Hiring

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spokeswoman said. Connecticut legalized adult-use marijuana last year and businesses are competing for state licenses and the industry has yet to take shape. Medical marijuana has been legal in Connecticut for a decade and may be used for more than three dozen conditions ranging from cancer to cystic fibrosis and epilepsy. Jobs pay between \$15 and \$18 an hour, said Michael Evans, head recruiter at Verano. The company

is looking to hire cultivators, packagers and workers in security and maintenance. Employees must be over 21 and pass a background check. "Unless there's a question mark, they're good," he said. Such a "question mark" might be if a job applicant indicates that working at a cannabis business is a party, Evans said. It's work, requiring fertilizing and watering plants, packaging and dealing with customers. Strong job applicants could be from the hospitality industry, experience in garden centers and landscape businesses or in manufacturing, he said.

David Belsky, chief executive officer of FlowerHire, a recruiting firm for executives and managers in the cannabis industry, said his end of the business is "going great." He's placed nearly 1,000 top employees in five years and the industry is thriving as other businesses navigate an increasingly difficult economy, he said. "Though some companies are not hitting their earnings, we're seeing consistent demand for our services," he said in an interview. A study by the cannabis website Leafly reported 428,059 full-time cannabis jobs in the U.S. as of January, a 33% increase in a year and the fifth consecutive year of annual job

growth greater than 27%, it said. Labor markets in Connecticut and the U.S. are in one of the "tightest periods" in decades with more total job openings than unemployed workers for the better part of the past year, according to the state Department of Labor. Unemployment rates have fallen below 5% and job openings have been at or near all-time highs during the first quarter of 2022 and the number of unemployment recipients in Connecticut has fallen to the lowest level since 1988.

Stephen Singer can be reached at ssinger@courant.com.

Amore

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"I do think longevity is a big part of my career," she said. "I could argue that some of my best days were in my last four or five years. What I'm proud about is, I hope other players can see a career like this one and see the length of it and the success of it and know that they can do it, too. Hopefully, I'm one of those athletes that can start that narrative in women's basketball. "As for how I play the game, I know, when I watch basketball, it's exciting to watch people score, people who can make amazing plays on the floor. But it's also really valuable to have a player who puts the team first, who thinks of the game in that way, who always enjoyed being the one out there that's the glue. You can still be an amazing player by doing those things." Those are the examples Bird set, as point guard, as natural leader, but to do the things she has done, the way she has done them, for as long as she has done them puts the bar very high. The young players who come along

in her image, who will inevitably take the game to still another level, have a long way to reach and lot on which to build. Just as remarkable is the growth of women's basketball over the arc of her career. She recalled the days growing up on Long Island when there was no attention unless the Final Four or the Olympics were on. She recently ran into Jennifer Azzi, who played on the '96 Olympic team now featured on the ESPN documentary "Dream On," and told her, "You were my see-it, be-it moment." Bird had seen her play in Philadelphia that year. "I lived it," Bird said. "That was like a 13- or 14-year-old little me dreaming about the Olympic team because there was no WNBA." Before Bird was finished, there was a book written about her most famous shot for UConn, the "Bird at the Buzzer" to beat Notre Dame. She was doing commercials with NBA stars. The game, she said, "is in a great place," even if she is not one to elaborate on her role in getting it there. She was the glue for much more than just the Storm. As last season wound down,

Bird heard the chants of "one more year," in Seattle and elsewhere. When she was signing autographs in Dallas this week she heard them again, but thought to herself, "That's not going to work this time." "When you know, you know," she said. And Bird knew during training camp that this would be her last go-around. She'd told those who were influential in her life, including her UConn coach and Olympic coach, Geno Auriemma, that this would be it, but held off on the announcement until the week the Storm came east to play in Connecticut and New York. She didn't want a farewell tour, doesn't want the focus on her these last couple of months, but it can be no other way. Fans want to say goodbye and thank you, and certainly her last two games in Connecticut, Friday night and July 28, will mean more tears, no doubt, more tissues. "How do you not get sad? This is a major life decision," she said before taking another pause to gather herself. "Not a lot of people get to do something for their entire lives, the way that athletes do. Sports is

different. I've been doing this since I was 5 or 6 years old, it's all I know, so of course I'm sad. But I have no regrets. I feel wonderful about my career, the people I've met, the things I've accomplished. Anybody would like to have a fairy tale of a last season, win a championship, go out on an amazing high, but the reality is, one game, one season, one moment doesn't change a career." Skills erode over time, but charisma, like memories, last. When the Storm's season ends, Bird's basketball chapter will end and she will look for the new one to write. If basketball is as irreplaceable to her as she is to the game, she does find inspiration in words she remembered Derek Jeter saying during his final season. "One quote I always come back to," Bird said, "Derek Jeter said he was looking forward to being a young person again. I realize 41 is actually young. Currently, I don't feel that way in my line of work, but it's exciting to know I can be young again, I can try new things and see what's out there." One thing isn't out there: another Sue Bird.

Numbers

from Page 1

most all-time. The guard holds five different WNBA career records, including seasons played (19); games played (559); assists (3,114); minutes played (17,532) and all-star appearances (12). **12** Bird made the WNBA All-Star Game in 12 different seasons (2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018 and 2021), the most of any current or former WNBA player. **25** During the WNBA's 25th anniversary celebration in 2021, Bird was named one of the 25 greatest players in league history. She was also named to the 20th-anniversary list and the 15th. **39** In her senior season at UConn, Bird let the Huskies to a perfect 39-0 season that was capped off by her second national championship.

231 Bird set the UConn women's basketball records for assists in a season when she dished out 231 helpers in the 2001-02 season. **500** Bird is the only WNBA player to ever play in 500 career games. **559** Having never come off the bench in a game, Bird holds the WNBA record for career starts with 559. **700** Bird's tenacity on the defensive side of the ball lands her fourth all-time with 700 career steals. **965** Bird is second all-time in WNBA 3-pointers made with 965. **2002** After leading UConn to a 39-0 season in 2002, Bird was named the Sports-woman of the Year for team sports by the Women's Sports Foundation.

2,419 Bird surpassed the Seattle Storm record for field goals in 2017, she has extended the record to 2,419. **3,000** On July 9, 2021, Bird became the first WNBA player to reach the 3,000-assist milestone. **3,114** Bird surpassed Tina Penicheiro's all-time assist record in 2017. She is currently at a WNBA-record 3,114 assists over her career. **5,000** In 2015, Bird became the first player in WNBA history to reach 5,000 points and 2,000 assists. **17,532** Bird holds the Seattle Storm record for most minutes played with 17,532 over her career.

— Retired federal judge Michael Luttig

WAR IN UKRAINE

Leaders clear path for Ukraine to EU

Nations offer more military aid, pledge to back membership

By John Leicester and Sylvie Corbet
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Four European leaders expressed their support for Ukraine on Thursday while meeting with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, vowing to back Kyiv’s candidacy to eventually join the European Union and offering more weapons to fend off Russia’s invasion.

French President Emmanuel Macron promised Ukraine six more truck-mounted artillery guns, the latest in a new round of Western arms pledges as the war grinds on in the Donbas region in the east.

France, Germany, Italy and Romania “are doing everything so that Ukraine alone can decide its fate,” Macron said at a news conference with Zelenskyy and the others.

“My colleagues and I have come here to Kyiv today with a clear message: Ukraine belongs to the European family,” said German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

Amid Ukrainian fears that Western resolve could wane, the visit carried heavy symbolism.

France, Germany and Italy have all faced criticism for continuing to engage with Russian President Vladimir Putin — and failing to give Kyiv the weaponry it says its needs.

With Scholz beside him, Macron defended earlier comments that riled Ukrainians about not humiliating Russia, solemnly noting



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, left, welcomes what French President Emmanuel Macron had to say at a news conference Thursday in Kyiv. Macron joined leaders of Germany, Italy and Romania in the capital. ALEXEY FURMAN/GETTY

how the end of World War I had sown the seeds of World War II.

“We are side by side today with Chancellor Scholz. One hundred years ago, we were at war and allies helped France win. France committed a historic mistake. It lost the peace because it wanted to humiliate Germany. The question of humiliation I always placed in a context to come, not the current context,” he said.

“Today, this war must be won, France clearly supports Ukraine so it prevails,” Macron said. “Germany, like France, will never be in situations where

they negotiate on Ukraine’s behalf with Russia. Moreover, we have never done that.”

In his nightly video address, Zelenskyy said it was important for him to hear that European leaders “agree the end of the war and peace for Ukraine should be as Ukraine sees them.”

He said Ukrainians will continue to fight for all of their land.

Ukrainians and some of their European neighbors have been afraid that Western powers might press for territorial concessions for the sake of peace.

Scholz reiterated that there is no such intent to dictate anything to Ukrainians, and that only they “can decide what is right in terms of an agreement on a peace, which we are unfortunately very, very far away from.”

Italian Premier Mario Draghi expressed concern about millions of tons of grain backed up in Black Sea ports by the war, saying it could bring “worldwide catastrophe.”

Italy has been a first destination for African migrants and could find itself overwhelmed as a result of large-scale hunger in the Southern Hemisphere.

“We want the atrocities to stop and we want peace,” Draghi said. “But Ukraine must defend itself, and it will be Ukraine that chooses the peace it wants.”

The leaders also visited Irpin, a Kyiv suburb that saw intense fighting and where many civilians were killed. They decried the destruction there, with Macron saying he saw signs of “war crimes.”

The war has increased pressure on EU governments to fast-track Ukraine’s candidate status, and Thursday’s pledge to support candidacy status for Ukraine and neighboring Moldova

pushes the 27-nation union closer to doing so.

But the process is expected to take years, and EU members remain divided over how quickly and fully to open their arms to new members.

European allies have sent increasingly powerful weapons and rallied around Ukraine more than many expected, approving waves of unprecedented sanctions against Russia that also are badly squeezing Europe’s economy.

Ukrainians say more is needed as Russia presses an offensive in the Donbas, slowly gaining ground on the outmanned and outgunned Ukrainian forces.

Macron, Scholz and Draghi, representing the EU’s three largest economies, traveled to Kyiv together on an overnight train. They had been criticized for not visiting sooner. Air raid sirens wailed soon after they arrived.

President Klaus Iohannis of Romania, which borders Ukraine and has been a key destination for its refugees, arrived on a separate train.

Dmitry Medvedev, the former Russian president who is now deputy head of the Kremlin Security Council, dismissed the European leaders as “connoisseurs of frogs, liver and pasta,” and said their visit brought no benefit.

“Again they promised EU membership and old howitzers, slammed down some vodka and, like 100 years ago, took the train home,” he tweeted. “And that’s all good. It’s just that this doesn’t bring Ukraine any closer to peace. And the clock is ticking.”

Biden on recession: ‘First of all, it’s not inevitable’

President adds US in strong position to overcome inflation

By Josh Boak
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden said Thursday that the American people are “really, really down” after a tumultuous two years with the coronavirus pandemic, volatility in the economy and now surging gasoline prices that are slamming family budgets.

He said a recession is not inevitable and bristled at claims by Republican lawmakers that last year’s COVID-19 aid plan was to blame for inflation reaching a 40-year high, calling that argument “bizarre.”

As for the overall American mindset, Biden said, “People are really, really down.”

“They’re really down,” he said. “The need for mental health in America, it has skyrocketed, because people have seen everything upset. Everything they’ve counted on upset. But most of it’s the consequence of what’s happened, what happened as a consequence of the COVID crisis.”

In a 30-minute Oval Office interview with The Associ-

ated Press, Biden addressed the warnings by economists that the United States could be headed for a recession.

“First of all, it’s not inevitable,” he said. “Secondly, we’re in a stronger position than any nation in the world to overcome this inflation.”

As for the causes of inflation, Biden flashed some defensiveness on that count.

“If it’s my fault, why is it the case in every other major industrial country in the world that inflation is higher? You ask yourself that? I’m not being a wise guy,” he said.

The president said Thursday that he saw reason for optimism with a 3.6% unemployment rate and America’s relative strength in the world.

“Be confident, because I am confident we’re better positioned than any country in the world to own the second quarter of the 21st century,” Biden said. “That’s not hyperbole, that’s a fact.”

Biden’s bleak assessment of the national psyche comes as voters have soured on his job performance and the direction of the country. Only 39% of U.S. adults approve of Biden’s performance as president, according to a May poll from Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Research,

dipping from already negative ratings a month earlier.

Overall, only about 2 in 10 adults said the U.S. is heading in the right direction or that the economy is good, both down from about 3 in 10 in April. Those drops were concentrated among Democrats, with just 33% within the president’s party saying the country is headed in the right direction, down from 49% in April.

The president outlined some of the hard choices he has faced, saying the U.S. needed to stand up to Russian President Vladimir Putin for invading Ukraine in February even though tough sanctions imposed as a result of that war has caused the national average price for a gallon of gas to top \$5, according to AAA on Thursday.

Biden this week called on oil companies to think of the world’s short-term needs and increase production.

Asked why he ordered the financial penalties against Moscow that have disrupted food and energy markets globally, Biden said he made his calculation as commander in chief rather than as a politician thinking about the election.

“I’m the president of the United States,” he said. “It’s what’s best in the country.



In a wide-ranging interview Thursday, President Biden acknowledged Americans are “really, really down” after enduring the pandemic and now economic uncertainty. EVAN VUCCI/AP

No kidding. No kidding. So what happens? What happens if the strongest power in NATO, the organizational structure we put together, walked away from Russian aggression?”

Biden spun out the possibility of chaos in Europe if an unimpeded Russia kept moving deeper into the continent, China was emboldened to take over Taiwan and North Korea grew even more aggressive with its nuclear weapon ambitions.

Biden renewed his contention that major oil

companies have benefited from higher prices without increasing production as much as they should. He said the companies needed to think of the world in the short term, not just their investors.

“Don’t just reward yourselves,” he said.

Consumer prices have jumped 8.6% over the past year, the steepest rise in more than 40 years. Republican lawmakers have said that Biden’s \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package from last year kick-started a spiral of price increases.

The president said there was “zero evidence” for that claim, noting that other countries have endured higher prices as economies reopened and people became vaccinated. Still, Biden acknowledged Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen’s contention that the spending had a limited inflationary effect.

“You could argue whether it had on the margin a minor impact on inflation,” he said. “I don’t think it did. And most economists do not. But the idea that it caused inflation is bizarre.”

Senate OKs enhanced benefits for war vets exposed to toxic burn pits

By Kevin Freking
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Thursday approved a sweeping expansion of health care and disability benefits for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans in response to concerns about their exposure to toxic burn pits.

Passage of the bill by a vote of 84-14 sets a course that could help millions who served after Sept. 11, 2001, and caps years of advocacy

work by veterans groups and others who liken burn pits to the Agent Orange herbicide that Vietnam-era veterans were exposed to in Southeast Asia.

The bill is projected to increase federal spending by about \$283 billion over 10 years and does not include offsetting spending cuts or tax increases to help pay for it. The House in March approved similar legislation that would have cost more than \$320 billion over 10 years.



An Afghan pickup passes parked U.S. vehicles as smoke rises from a fire in an open burn pit in Helmand province. AP 2011

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said after Senate passage that the House would “move swiftly”

to take up the legislation and send it to President Joe Biden to be signed into law. Most Republicans voted

for the bill, but some opposed it. “That’s way too much money,” Sen. Cynthia Lummis, R-Wyo., said.

In a statement after the vote, Biden said the bill “makes good on our sacred obligation to care for veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors.”

The military used open burn pits set ablaze with jet fuel to dispose of tires, batteries, medical waste and other materials during operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The bill would expand

military veterans’ eligibility for medical care through the Department of Veterans Affairs by extending coverage for 10 years after discharge instead of the current five years.

The legislation would also presume that certain respiratory illnesses and cancers were related to burn pit exposure, allowing the veterans to obtain disability payments to compensate for their injury without having to prove the illness was a result of their service.

WORLD & NATION

Can Endangered Species Act stop oil drilling?

Environment groups invoke law in suit to halt federal permits

By Lisa Friedman
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — Oil burned from a well drilled in Wyoming adds to the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere that is heating the planet and devastating coral reefs in Florida, polar bears in the Arctic and monk seals in Hawaii.

But drawing a direct line from any single source of pollution to the destruction of a species is virtually impossible.

Environmentalists want the government to try.

This week, a coalition of organizations sued the Biden administration for consistently failing to consider the harms caused to endangered species by emissions produced by oil and gas drilling on public lands.

If the coalition succeeds by invoking the protections under the Endangered Species Act, more than 3,500 drilling permits issued during the Biden administration could be revoked and future permitting could be far more difficult.

“The science is now unfortunately quite clear that climate change is a catastrophe for the planet in every which way, including for endangered species,” said Brett Hartl, government affairs director at the Center for Biological Diversity.

It is leading the lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

A spokesman for the Interior Department declined to comment on the case.

Oil and gas industry officials noted that for every drilling permit issued, the government already conducts environmental analyses and opponents have multiple opportunities to challenge decisions. The industry officials said the lawsuit is a backdoor effort



A critically endangered monk seal rests on a beach in the Pupukea community of Oahu, Hawaii. MARK BAKER/AP 2018

to curtail fossil fuel development and would harm the economy.

“They will not be satisfied until federal oil and natural gas is shut down completely, yet that option is not supported by law,” said Kathleen Sgamma, president of the Western Energy Alliance, which represents oil and gas companies.

“They’re trying to use the courts to deny Americans energy and drive up prices because they can’t convince Congress to change the law,” she said. “Shutting down federal oil and natural gas does nothing to address climate change but merely shifts the production to private lands or overseas.”

The International Energy Agency, the world’s leading energy agency, has said that nations must stop developing new oil and gas fields and building new coal-fired power plants if global warming is to stay within relatively safe limits.

The lawsuit is the latest

skirmish by environmentalists who want to keep fossil fuels “in the ground” and force President Joe Biden to make good on his campaign promise to end new oil and gas drilling leases. Biden did move in the early days of his presidency to suspend new leases, but legal challenges from Republican-led states and the oil industry have thwarted that effort.

As early as next week, the Biden administration is expected to hold its first onshore lease sales for drilling on public lands in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and more than 131,000 acres in Wyoming alone.

The case faces long odds, but experts called it an ambitious effort that could force the government to rethink how it evaluates the potential for climate harm from each new drilling permit.

The suit turns on invalidating decisions that rely on a 2008 legal opinion written by David Bernhardt,

who was chief counsel at the Department of Interior under President George W. Bush and would later run the agency in the Trump administration. Bernhardt declared that the Interior Department does not have an obligation to study the impact on an endangered plant or animal from a proposed action that would add carbon emissions to the atmosphere.

“Science cannot say that a tiny incremental global temperature rise that might be produced by an action under consideration would manifest itself in the location of a listed species or its habitat,” Bernhardt wrote at the time.

That position still largely holds true, scientists and environmentalists said. But they also said it’s an impossible standard — like requiring knowledge of which packet of cigarettes triggered a smoker’s lung cancer.

“It’s totally the wrong way to think about it,” said

John Wiens, an ecology and evolutionary biology professor at the University of Arizona.

He and other researchers published a study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in 2020 finding that one third of plant and animal species could be gone in 50 years because of climate change.

“More emissions, more warming puts species at risk,” Wiens said. “It doesn’t matter if we don’t know that this specific well in Wyoming led to an extinction. We know what the general pattern is.”

Jessica Wentz, a senior fellow at Columbia University’s Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, said the notion that a clear line from pollution to peril is required is “a common misrepresentation of climate science that is frequently used to justify inaction on climate change.”

The lawsuit notes that according to the Bureau of Land Management’s anal-

yses, oil and gas production on public lands emits 9% of the United States’ greenhouse gases and 1% of global emissions. The suit estimates that the approximately 3,500 drilling permits approved under the Biden administration will release as much as 600 million tons of greenhouse gases over the lifespans of the wells.

Another law, the National Environmental Policy Act, requires the government to study the impacts on climate change by proposed projects but does not obligate an agency to deny a bridge, pipeline or highway because of the consequences.

Under the Endangered Species Act, however, if a project is found to jeopardize a threatened plant or animal, there’s a stronger presumption that the agency should reconsider the project, experts said.

So requiring the government to simply understand the effects of rising emissions on a species could fundamentally slow or block drilling permits, environmental groups said.

Bernhardt said that his legal opinion and an underlying memo from the director of the U.S. Geological Survey “were written with an incredible amount of work and understanding of the law and the science.”

Mark Myers, who served as director of the USGS in 2008 and who wrote a memo — outlining the challenges of linking emissions with its consequences — that helped form the basis for Bernhardt’s legal opinion, agreed. At the time, the administration vetted the opinion with top scientists throughout the agency, he said.

Myers said he believes fossil fuel emissions pose a dire threat to the planet. But he described the Endangered Species Act as a complex law and the “wrong vehicle to accomplish a change in our global emissions patterns.”

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CABARET

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WORLD & NATION

For Juneteenth, recognition is slow

Historic date enjoys holiday status in just some states this year

By Kimberlee Kruesi and Cheyanne Mumphrey
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Recognition of Juneteenth, the effective end of slavery in the U.S., gained traction after the police killing of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis in 2020. But after an initial burst of action, the movement to have it recognized as an official holiday by states has largely stalled. Although almost every state recognizes Juneteenth in some fashion, many have been slow to do more than issue a proclamation or resolution, even as some continue to commemorate the Confederacy. Lawmakers in Alabama, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee and other states failed to advance proposals this year that would have closed state offices and given most of their public employees paid time off for the June 19 holiday. That trend infuriates Black leaders and community organizers who view making Juneteenth a paid holiday the bare minimum state officials can do to help honor an often overlooked and ignored piece of U.S. history. “Juneteenth marks the date of major significance in American history. It represents the ways in which freedom for Black people have been delayed,” said Democratic Rep. Anthony Nolan, who is Black, while arguing in favor of making Juneteenth a paid holiday in Connecticut on the House floor. “And if we delay this, it’s a smack in the face to Black folks.” Juneteenth commemorates when Union soldiers brought the news of freedom to enslaved Black people in Galveston, Texas, in 1865, two months after



Jasmine Kingi, left, and Robin Renee Green, both from Los Angeles, celebrate as they take part in a car parade last year in Inglewood, Calif., to mark Juneteenth, the effective end of slavery in the United States. RINGO H.W. CHIU/AP

the Confederacy had surrendered in the Civil War and about 2½ years after the Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves in Southern states. Last year, Congress and President Joe Biden moved swiftly to make Juneteenth a national holiday. It was the first time the federal government had designated a new national holiday since approving Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 1983. Yet the move didn’t result in an automatic adoption from most states. In Alabama, Republican Gov. Kay Ivey issued another a proclamation marking Juneteenth as a state holiday earlier this week, after state lawmakers refused to take action on a bill during their legislative session even after she voiced strong support for making it a permanent holiday in 2021. The state closes down for Confederate Memorial Days

in April. Similarly, Wyoming’s Republican Gov. Mark Gordon issued a statement last June saying he would work with lawmakers to make it a state holiday, but no legislation was filed during the 2022 session. In Tennessee, Republican Gov. Bill Lee quietly tucked enough funding — roughly \$700,000 — to make Juneteenth a state paid holiday into his initial spending plan for the upcoming year. Despite the bill gaining traction in the state Senate, GOP legislative leaders maintained there wasn’t enough support for the idea even as Tennessee law currently designates special observances for Robert E. Lee Day, Confederate Decoration Day and Nathan Bedford Forrest Day. “I asked many people in my district over the last few days, well over 100 people, if they knew what Juneteenth

was and only two of them knew,” said Republican Sen. Joey Hensley, who is white and voted against the proposal. “I just think we’re putting the cart before the horse making a holiday that people don’t know about.” In South Carolina, instead of working to approve Juneteenth as a holiday, Senate lawmakers unanimously advanced a bill that would allow state employees to choose any day they want to take off instead of the Confederate Memorial Day currently enshrined as a paid holiday in state law. However, the House sent the bill to a committee where it died without a hearing when the Legislature adjourned for the session. At the same time, many of these Republican-led areas have advanced bills limiting what can be taught about systematic racism in classrooms, while also spiking

proposals aimed at expanding voting rights and police reform. This year, nearly 20 states are expected to close state offices and give most of their public employees time off. At least six states officially adopted the holiday over the past few months, including Connecticut, Colorado, Georgia, Maryland, South Dakota, Utah and Washington. A bill introduced in California passed the Assembly and moved to the Senate this month, and individual cities such as Los Angeles have already signed proclamations making Juneteenth official. “Becoming a state holiday will not merely give employees a day off, it will also give residents a day to think about the future that we want, while remembering the inequities of the past,” said Democratic Del. Andrea Harrison, who spon-

sored the Juneteenth legislation in Maryland this year. “It will help us to reflect how far we’ve come as a nation, how much more we need to do as humankind.” Attempts to give Juneteenth the same deference as Memorial Day or July Fourth didn’t begin to gain traction until 2020, when protests sparked a nationwide push to address race after the police killing of Floyd and the deaths of other Black people by police officers. “George Floyd protests against police brutality brought awareness to Juneteenth because there were people of all races learning about its significance for the first time following a public push to self-educate and learn more about Black history, culture and injustices,” said Tremaine Jasper, a resident and business owner in Phoenix who has attended Juneteenth celebrations across Arizona with his family. Some cities in Arizona, including Phoenix, have declared Juneteenth an official holiday, paying city employees and closing municipal buildings. However, lawmakers are not currently considering statewide recognition. “There are so many other important issues that we need to tackle — education, political issues, reparations — before we prioritize making Juneteenth a statewide holiday,” Jasper said, noting that those looking to celebrate know where to go. Jasper, who was born and raised in Arizona, said it is going to be an “uphill battle” to get the state to recognize Juneteenth because there is not a large enough Black population outside of its largest cities to make the push. Arizona was also slow in recognizing Martin Luther King Jr. Day, not doing so until 1992. It was one of the last states to officially recognize the civil rights leader, who was slain in 1968.



A woman shops for baby formula last month in Annapolis, Maryland. Storms this week forced a Michigan plant to pause production amid a national shortage. JIM WATSON/GETTY-AFP

Mich. baby formula factory suffers setback after storms

By Tom Murphy and Laura Ungar
Associated Press

Severe weather forced Abbott Nutrition to pause production at a Michigan baby formula factory that had just restarted after being closed for several months, contributing to a national shortage. Production for Abbott’s EleCare specialty formula has been suspended, but there is enough supply to meet demand until production is restarted, the company said. Abbott had prioritized ramping up production of the specialty formula for infants with severe food allergies and digestive problems who have few other options for nutrition. Abbott said it needs to assess damage and resanitize the factory in Sturgis, Michigan, after severe thunderstorms and heavy rains swept through southwestern Michigan late Monday. Spokesman Jonathan Hamilton said flooding hit a few areas of the factory. The company expects production and distribution to be delayed a few weeks as it cleans the plant.

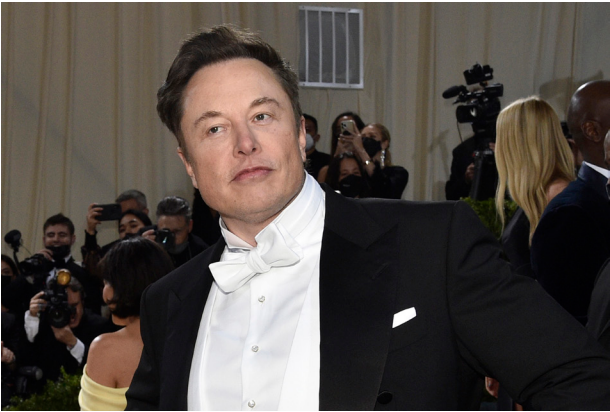
Once it restarts, the factory will begin with the production of EleCare and other specialty formulas. Abbott said it also plans to restart production of its Similac formula as soon as possible. Abbott restarted the factory June 4 after it had been closed since February due to contamination. Abbott recalled several brands of formula then. That squeezed supplies that had already been strained by supply chain disruptions and stockpiling during COVID-19 shutdowns. The ongoing shortage has been most dire for children with allergies, digestive problems and metabolic disorders who rely on specialty formulas. President Joe Biden’s administration has since eased import rules for foreign manufacturers, airlifted formula from Europe and invoked federal emergency powers to prioritize U.S. production. FDA Commissioner Dr. Robert Califf told a Senate committee Thursday that government work done to increase the supply means that there will be more than enough product to meet

current demand. He also said that other U.S. baby formula manufacturers are running their plants around the clock. Califf said they hoped to have a “super supply” of formula in perhaps two weeks. “But it’s too early to give an exact estimate of what the delay will be in the Sturgis plant,” Califf said at a hearing of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions. Califf called the flood at the plant “an unfortunate setback and a reminder that natural weather events can cause unforeseen disruptions in supply chains.” Abbott is one of four companies that produce about 90% of U.S. formula. Hamilton said Abbott has produced 8.7 million pounds of formula in June, or 95% of what it produced the month before the recall. The Michigan factory was closed after the Food and Drug Administration began investigating four bacterial infections among infants who consumed powdered formula from the plant. Two of the babies died.

Musk outlines his vision for Twitter in 1st address to staff

By Barbara Ortutay
The New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO — For weeks, Elon Musk has trashed Twitter in public. On Thursday, he acted like he would finally own the company. In an hourlong question-and-answer session in the morning with Twitter’s 8,000 or so employees — the first time Musk has spoken with them since he struck a \$44 billion deal to buy the social media company in April — the world’s richest man opened up about his plans for the service. In an effusive and at times rambling address, he touched on growth, potential layoffs, issues like anonymity, Chinese apps and even the cosmic nature of Twitter. “I want Twitter to contribute to a better, long-lasting civilization where we better understand the nature of reality,” Musk said in the virtual meeting, which was livestreamed to Twitter employees and which The New York Times listened to. He added that he hoped the service could help humankind “better understand the nature of the universe, as much as it is possible to understand.” The meeting, which Musk participated in from his cellphone in what appeared to be a hotel room, suggested that he was set on closing the blockbuster deal. In recent weeks, his intentions toward Twitter have been in doubt. The billionaire, who also runs electric carmaker Tesla and rocket company SpaceX, has repeatedly raised questions about Twitter’s fake accounts. This month, his lawyers said the company was refusing to give him information, an apparent pretext for potentially trying to end or renegotiate the acquisition. Musk, who offered \$54.20 a share to buy Twit-



Elon Musk addressed Twitter workers in a virtual meeting Thursday. Above, Musk at a gala. EVAN AGOSTINI/INVISION

ter, may have had a change of heart after global markets tumbled. Twitter’s stock is now trading around \$38. And shares of Tesla, which are Musk’s main source of wealth, have also plummeted. In April, Musk had agreed to buy Twitter without doing any due diligence. He is on the hook for a breakup fee of \$1 billion if he walks away. Under the terms of the deal, Twitter also has the right to sue him to force a completion of the acquisition, if his debt financing for the purchase remains intact. Twitter has insisted that the deal remains on track and that it has been sharing information with Musk. In his remarks Thursday, Musk did not directly address whether he would close the deal with Twitter. But he said he had grand plans for the service. In the conversation, which was moderated by Twitter’s chief marketing officer, Leslie Berland, Musk said he hoped to grow the service so that it would be used by more than 1 billion people across the world. That would be nearly four times the number of people who use Twitter currently. He added that he was hands-on at Tesla and expected to be so at Twitter, and would be especially involved in the social media service’s features.

“I do expect that they will listen to me in this regard,” Musk said. Musk answered questions collected from Twitter employees on the internal Slack messaging system in the past week. Some of the questions were about workplace culture, including remote work. This month, Musk sent memos to workers at Tesla and SpaceX, saying he expected them to be in the office for 40 hours a week. Twitter’s employees have largely worked remotely in the coronavirus pandemic. In the meeting, Musk said he was open to Twitter employees who worked remotely, given that developing software was different from showing up daily to build cars. Musk dodged directly answering whether there would be layoffs at Twitter under his watch, though his answer was ominous. “Right now, costs exceed revenue,” he said. “That’s not a great situation.” Musk, a longtime power user of Twitter with more than 98 million followers, has long said he believes the company’s potential is underutilized. He has added that he hopes to rejuvenate the service outside the eye of the public markets by taking the company private and making significant changes to how Twitter operates.

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

Death penalty aired at Buffalo gunman's first fed court appearance

From news services

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The white man who killed 10 Black people at a Buffalo supermarket made his first appearance in federal court on hate crime charges Thursday, and the judge urged prosecutors to quickly decide whether to pursue the death penalty given the “substantial” cost of those cases.

In a brief proceeding, presiding Magistrate Judge H. Kenneth Schroeder said Payton Gendron was eligible to be represented by public defenders based on his financial situation. Fielding a series of questions from the judge mostly with “yes” or “no” responses, Gendron said he had not been employed in a year, had \$16 in a bank account, had no car and two shares of Disney stock.

Gendron has been held without bail since his arrest shortly after the May 14 attack at a Tops Friendly Supermarket, which also left three people wounded.

He appeared in U.S. District Court on a criminal complaint charging him with 10 counts each of hate crime resulting in death and using a firearm to commit murder. The complaint also includes three counts each of hate crime involving bodily injury and attempt to kill, and using a firearm in a violent crime.

No plea was entered during the proceeding, and Gendron's parents were not in the courtroom.

Attorney General Merrick Garland, who met with the victims' families in Buffalo on Wednesday, has not ruled out seeking the death penalty against Gendron.

In calling for prosecutors to make a quick decision on the death penalty, Schroeder noted such cases typically require expert testimony from psychiatrists and medical examiners.

Federal prosecutor Joseph Tripi said the next step in the process involves an indictment. At that point, it will be the attorney general's “sole decision” whether to seek the death penalty.

The federal hate crimes case is based partly on documents in which Gendron detailed his plans for the attack.

The writings included “statements that his motivation for the attack was to prevent Black people from replacing white people and eliminating the white race, and to inspire others to commit similar racially-motivated attacks,” according to the complaint.

Yellowstone flooding: Red Lodge, Montana, a gateway town to Yellowstone National Park, has become a dead end, a casualty of the severe flooding that tore through one of America's most beloved natural attractions and swept away roads, bridges and homes.

The unprecedented flood has closed the entire park and forced the evacuation of 10,000 visitors. And towns like Red Lodge that lead to Yellowstone's northern entrances and rely on tourists passing through could suffer for the rest of the summer.

Officials have said the park's southern part, which features Old Faithful, could reopen next week. But the north end, which includes Tower Fall and Lamar Valley, could stay closed for months after miles of a major road inside Yellowstone were washed away.

At least 88 people were rescued by the Montana National Guard over the past few days from campsites and small towns, and hundreds of homes were damaged by muddy waters. No deaths or serious injuries have been reported.

President Joe Biden



Anti-government protesters ride past a burning barricade during demonstrations Thursday in Quito, Ecuador. An Indigenous group called for protests to demand a reduction in the price of gasoline, a moratorium on the extension of mining and oil projects and the setting of a minimum price for agricultural products. The group's leader was arrested Tuesday. **DOLORES OCHOA/AP**

declared a disaster in Montana, ordering federal assistance be made available.

Actor Spacey granted bail: Kevin Spacey “strenuously denies” allegations of sexual assault, his lawyer said Thursday, as the Oscar-winning actor appeared in a London court to face five charges of offenses against three men.

Spacey, 62, arrived at London's Westminster Magistrates Court for the preliminary hearing accompanied by members of his legal team and two police officers.

He was not asked to enter a formal plea, but his lawyer, Patrick Gibbs, said: “Mr. Spacey strenuously denies any and all criminality in this case.”

Deputy Chief Magistrate Tan Ikram granted Spacey unconditional bail until his next appearance, a plea hearing scheduled for July 14. He is free to return to the U.S. in the meantime.

The alleged incidents took place between March 2005

and August 2008, and in April 2013.

The alleged victims are now in their 30s and 40s.

New NKorea outbreak: North Korea reported a new “epidemic” of an intestinal disease on Thursday, an unusual announcement from the secretive country that is already contending with a COVID-19 outbreak and severe economic turmoil.

It's unclear how many people are infected in what the official Korean Central News Agency said was “an acute enteric epidemic” in southwestern Haeju city.

The agency didn't name the disease, but enteric refers to intestinal illnesses, such as typhoid, dysentery and cholera, which are caused by germs in contaminated food or water or contact with the feces of infected people.

Such diseases routinely occur in North Korea, where there is a shortage of water treatment facilities and the public health system has been largely broken for

decades.

Some observers said the purpose of the announcement was not so much to report the infections themselves as to mention that leader Kim Jong Un donated medicine from his personal stock — an apparent effort to burnish his image at a moment of extreme hardship.

Africa vaccinations: Most countries in Africa have made significant gains in vaccinating two vulnerable groups against COVID-19, but new infections are creeping upward as summer travel begins and some countries ease public health measures, the World Health Organization said Thursday.

About half of public health workers and people older than 60 have been fully vaccinated in 31 countries, according to Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO's regional director. Moeti described that as an “impressive turnaround” since the end of 2021, when just one-third of health workers and 10% of

older people had been fully inoculated.

The WHO has predicted a sharp reduction in the number of COVID-19 deaths this year in its 48-nation Africa region, which covers most of the continent.

Amazon killings: A fisherman confessed to killing a British journalist and an Indigenous expert in Brazil's remote Amazon region and took police to a site where human remains were recovered, a federal investigator said after a grim 10-day search for the missing pair.

Authorities said they expected to make more arrests in the case of freelance reporter Dom Phillips and Bruno Pereira of Brazil, who disappeared June 5. None had been made as of Thursday.

They gave no immediate explanation of a motive for the killings, but officials earlier suggested that Pereira's work to stop illegal fishing in an Indigenous reserve had angered local fishermen.



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BUSINESS

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Stocks again tumble amid global jitters, rising rates

By Stan Choe
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Fear swept through financial markets Thursday, and Wall Street tumbled as worries roared back to the fore that the world’s fragile economy may buckle under higher interest rates.

The S&P 500 fell 3.3% in a widespread wipeout to more than reverse its blip of a 1.5% rally from a day before. Analysts had warned of more big swings given deep uncertainties about whether the Federal Reserve and other central banks can tiptoe the narrow path of hiking interest rates enough to get inflation under control but not so much that they cause a recession.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 2.4% and was briefly down more than 900 points, while the Nasdaq composite sank 4.1%. It was the sixth loss for the S&P 500 in its last seven tries, and all but 3% of the stocks in the index dropped.

Wall Street fell with stocks across Europe after central banks there followed up on the Federal Reserve’s interest rate hike Wednesday.

The Bank of England raised its key rate for the fifth time since December, though

it opted for a more modest increase of 0.25 percentage points than the 0.75-point hammer brought by the Fed.

Switzerland’s central bank, meanwhile, raised rates for the first time in years, a half-point hike. And Taiwan’s central bank raised its key rate by an eighth of a point.

Such moves and expectations for plenty more have sent investments tumbling this year, from bonds to bitcoin. Higher interest rates slow the economy by design, in hopes of stamping out inflation. But they’re a blunt tool that can choke off the economy if used too aggressively.

“Another concern is that with the change in policy, there’s been weakening economic data already,” said Bill Northey, senior investment director at U.S. Bank Wealth Management. “That raises the odds of a recession in the latter part of 2022 into 2023.”

The worries dragged the S&P 500 into a bear market earlier this week, meaning it had dropped more than 20% from its peak. It’s now 23.6% below its record set early this year and back to where it was in late 2020. That effectively erases 2021, which was one of the best years for Wall Street since the turn of the millennium.

The S&P 500 fell 123.22 points to 3,666.77. The Dow lost 741.46 to 29,927.07, and the Nasdaq dropped 453.06 to 10,646.10.

Thursday’s biggest losses hit the stocks of the smallest companies, a sign of pessimism about the economy’s strength. The Russell 2000 index of smaller stocks sank 81.30, or 4.7%, to 1,649.84.

Not only is the Federal Reserve hiking short-term rates, it also this month began allowing some of the trillions of dollars of bonds it purchased through the pandemic to roll off its balance sheet. That should put upward pressure on longer-term interest rates.

It’s another way central banks have been ripping away supports they earlier propped underneath markets to juice the economy.

The U.S. economy is still holding up, driven in particular by a strong jobs market.

Fewer workers filed for unemployment benefits last week than a week before, a report showed Thursday.

But another sign of trouble has emerged.

On Thursday, a report showed homebuilders broke ground on fewer homes last month. Rising mortgage rates resulting directly from the Fed’s moves are digging into the industry.

Mortgage rates make biggest leap in 35 years

By Matt Ott
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Average long-term U.S. mortgage rates had their biggest one-week jump in 35 years with the Federal Reserve this week raising its key rate by three-quarters of a point in bid to tame high inflation.

Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac reported Thursday that the 30-year rate climbed from 5.23% last week to 5.78% this week, the highest it’s been since November 2008 during the housing crisis.

Wednesday’s rate hike by the Fed was its biggest in a single action since 1994.

The brisk jump in rates, along with a sharp increase in home prices, has been pushing potential homebuyers out of the market. Mortgage applications are down more than 15% from last year and refinancings are down more than 70%, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association.

Those figures are likely to worsen with more Fed rate increases a near certainty.

The Fed’s unusually large rate hike came after data released last week showed U.S. inflation rose last month to a four-decade high of 8.6%.

Higher borrowing rates appear to be slowing the housing market. Sales of previously occupied U.S. homes slowed for the third consecutive month in April as mortgage rates surged, driving up borrowing costs for would-be buyers as home prices soared.

Homeownership has become increasingly difficult lately, especially for first-time buyers. Besides staggering inflation, rising mortgage rates and soaring home prices, the supply of homes for sale continues to be scarce.

The average rate on 15-year fixed-rate mortgages, popular among those refinancing their homes, rose to 4.81% from 4.38% last week. A year ago, the rate was 2.24%.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Unemployment applications dip

WASHINGTON — Fewer Americans applied for unemployment benefits last week as the U.S. job market remains strong in the face of rising inflation and interest rates.

Applications for jobless aid fell by 3,000 to 229,000 for the week ending June 11, down from the previous week’s 232,000, the Labor Department reported Thursday. First-time applications generally represent the number of layoffs.

The four-week average for claims, which evens out some of the week-to-week volatility, rose by 2,750 from the previous week, to 218,500.

The total number of Americans collecting jobless benefits for the week ending June 4 was 1,312,000. That figure has hovered near 50-year lows for months.

Bank of England again hikes rates

The Bank of England continued its efforts to tamp down inflation Thursday, raising interest rates for the fifth consecutive policy meeting to 1.25%, the highest since 2009.

Policymakers raised rates by just a quarter of a percentage point even as other major central banks around the world have recently opted for larger increases. This week, data showed the economy contracted in April for a second month in a row. The bank now forecasts the economy to contract 0.3% in the second quarter, instead of growing slightly.

The annual inflation rate is expected to climb above 11% in October, higher than previously forecast, when household electricity and gas bills are set to rise again. That would be the highest rate since the early ’80s.



Even COVID-19 is no excuse

Working while sick is norm in US — and pandemic shows how that hasn’t changed at all

By Emma Goldberg
The New York Times

The tone of the typical isolation postcard is sunny, insistent and aspirational as a holiday greeting: “Thanks to everyone who sent well wishes for @VP,” wrote Doug Emhoff, the second gentleman, on Twitter. “She is feeling good and is working from home.”

Like so many Americans, Vice President Kamala Harris got COVID-19 in late April. Like so many Americans, she worked right through it, seated at her desk. Other COVID-19-positive political figures have assured the public they, too, were forging ahead on their to-do lists.

In the world’s only wealthy country that does not guarantee paid sick leave, just working through it — even for those who could take paid time off — is the norm.

“I’m trying to work out in my head why I had that thought of, ‘Oh, I’ll work through it,’” said William Fitzgerald, 36, who runs a strategy firm. He got COVID-19 in late April and took meetings throughout his illness. “Why didn’t I just rest for the week?”

Working while sick is an American pastime — one that a vicious pandemic,

which sickened millions, somehow didn’t disrupt.

More than 100 other countries guarantee some form of paid sick leave.

In the United States, a survey of 3,600 hourly workers this spring found that two-thirds of those who had been sick with COVID-19 or other illnesses went to work while sick, according to the Shift Project at Harvard, a research project on work scheduling.

Many of them cited fear of getting in trouble with their managers, or financial pressures.

Some 33 million Americans don’t have paid sick leave. Low-income workers are far less likely to be able to take time off when they’re sick; just over half of people in the bottom quarter of wages get paid sick leave, compared to 94% in the top quarter.

But even salaried workers who have paid leave often don’t use the time that they’re allotted. Americans in private industry get an average of seven sick days per year.

A survey of large employers, by Mercer, found that nonhourly workers used just half of their sick days in 2021. This number was virtually unchanged from before the pandemic, in 2018, which Mercer analysts attribute partly to the prevalence of sick people working from home. In other words, for some people COVID-19 did away with the sick day instead of reinforcing it.

“There is this culture that everyone around you is working, so you feel obliged to go along with it,” Fitzgerald said. “The most important value in America seems to be how much money is in your bank account, and I think that’s what drives so much of working through sickness.”

Some office workers said they can’t shake the sense of guilt formed by a system that makes productivity seem like a virtue, the same system that tolerates a lack of legally mandated paid sick leave.

Some argue the pressure they feel — internal or otherwise — not to take a sick day slows their recovery. Angela Lewis, who works at a speakers bureau, tested positive for the coronavirus last month, along with the rest of her household. Her son stayed home from school, and her husband, who is self-employed, slept. Lewis, meanwhile, dropped a note in Slack to say she had COVID-19 and then forged through her standard workweek, although her head felt like it weighed 100 pounds.

“Some people kind of have a badge of honor, like ‘Yeah, I worked through it, it was fine,’” she said. “Ultimately, I could say I did the same.”

“I didn’t have a fever, so I felt obligated to work through it,” she added, noting that she does have paid time off that she didn’t use. “But then I felt annoyed about feeling obligated.”

Cosmetics giant Revlon files for bankruptcy

By Lauren Hirsch
The New York Times

Revlon built a cosmetics empire on red nail polish, with lipstick to match. But the pioneering brand, a mainstay of cosmetic cabinets since the Great Depression, has lost its shine amid the rise of a new generation of cosmetic brands, changing shopping habits and supply chain snarls.

The company filed for bankruptcy protection this week, its financial statements awash in red ink.

Revlon filed for Chapter 11 in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, with about \$3.8 billion in debt. It said it had secured \$575 million in “debtor-in-possession loans” to help fund

its operations in bankruptcy. The company has about 5,700 employees.

Revlon’s challenges have been mounting. Amid declining sales in 2020, it cut 1,000 positions in hopes of improving profitability. Later that year, it narrowly avoided filing for bankruptcy by striking a deal with its debt holders. More recently, its businesses have been challenged by coronavirus-related shutdowns in China and supply chain challenges that rippled across the country.

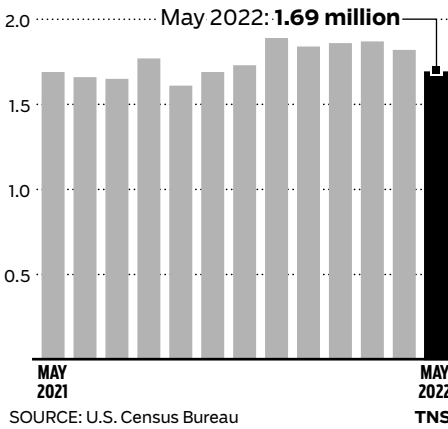
The company was founded in 1932 by Charles Revson, and grew to become the second-largest makeup company in the United States, behind Estée Lauder. Revlon was acquired by billionaire Ron Perelman for \$2.7 billion in 1985 through a hostile takeover.

It acquired Elizabeth Arden in 2016 in a purchase funded largely by loans. In the interim, cosmetics entrepreneurs such as Rihanna and Kylie Jenner have emerged. The social media superstars have promoted their products directly to their millions of Instagram followers, embracing inclusive color palettes and sidestepping the drugstores Revlon has traditionally relied on.

“Consumer demand for our products remains strong — people love our brands, and we continue to have a healthy market position,” Revlon’s chief executive Debra Perelman, who is Perelman’s daughter, said in a statement. The company’s stretched balance sheet “has limited our ability to navigate macroeconomic issues in order to meet this demand,” she said.

New residential construction

New housing unit permits authorized, in millions



Helen Bennett
Executive Editor
hbennett@courant.com

OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION

Trump, Sanders opened doors; inflation closing them



Ross Douthat

There were many bad things about the period in American politics between Donald Trump's escalator descent in summer 2015 and the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic: chaos, polarization, corruption, hysteria, the usual list.

But one good thing about that period was the return of intellectual ferment and policy ambition. Effectively, both Trump and Sen. Bernie Sanders demonstrated that more things were possible in American politics than had appeared the case in the dreary mid-Obama era, and populists and socialists rushed to fill the space they'd cleared — with ideas for right-wing industrial and family policy, with "Medicare for All" and the Green New Deal.

But you could argue that what really created this new sense of possibility, what helped Trump defeat the Republican establishment and lifted the Sanders campaigns in 2016 and (pre-pandemic) 2020, was the sense that America had more room to just spend money than the establishment in the Obama era had believed.

When deficits skyrocketed during the Great Recession, not just tea partiers but also lots of respectable centrists assumed that there were real inflation and debt-crisis risks on the horizon. In this landscape, Washington became obsessed

with fiscal grand bargains, and any kind of policy innovation seemed to require brutal pay-fors: If you wanted new liberal social programs, you needed sweeping tax increases; if you wanted "reform-conservative" support for work and family, you needed sweeping entitlement reform.

Except that the inflation expectation was wrong, and the U.S. economy chugged along below full capacity.

The idea of pay-fors didn't go away entirely: One obstacle to the major infrastructure bill that Trump promised and never delivered was congressional Republicans posturing as deficit hawks, and Sanders famously feuded with Sen. Elizabeth Warren over how to pay for their overlapping Medicare proposals. But mostly Republicans returned to a deficits-don't-matter insouciance, while the left had its own intellectual apparatus, modern monetary theory, to justify spending to the moon.

In certain ways the policy response to the pandemic was the apotheosis of this trend: bipartisan spending bills, extraordinary spending levels, negligible concern about the deficit. But today the COVID-19 relief bills look like an endpoint as well as a peak. In effect, the temporary crisis spending filled in all the fiscal space that policy entrepreneurs had envisioned being filled by permanent commitments. We saved businesses and propped up state and local governments; we didn't institute Medicare

for All or a permanent expansion of the child tax credit.

And then, at last, inflation made a comeback — and just like that, the era of free-lunch policymaking came to an end.

That end may not be permanent. But right now it feels as if both ambitious socialists and creative populists had a window of opportunity for unconstrained policymaking that opened in the mid-2010s, lasted through the Trump presidency and slammed closed under Joe Biden.

An atmosphere of constraint does not preclude all legislative creativity. There are certain things that Democrats can fund just by raising taxes on the rich, for instance, and perhaps some version of "Build Back Better" that balances new spending with upper-bracket tax hikes can still emerge from the long courtship of Sen. Joe Manchin. Among Republicans, Sen. Mitt Romney's family-benefit proposal pays for itself with reforms to the welfare state and the tax code; presumably other ideas from the populist right could do the same.

But given America's existing fiscal commitments, the return of inflation deals a blow to ambitions on the left, because there are few signs that the median voter (or the typical wealthy Democratic donor) is prepared to accept tax increases on the scale required to pay for the full agendas of Sanders or Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

It also creates problems for politicians

trying to hold together a downscale-up-scale coalition on the right. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, for instance, has flourished by attacking wokeness in schools while also raising teacher salaries, but it's hard to imagine his donors would be enthusiastic about a similar approach nationally if it required higher taxes on the rich. This doesn't mean that either populism or socialism is about to disappear.

But fiscal conditions, the inflation rate and donor pressure matter, no matter which ideological faction has the upper hand. And there are a lot of ways for ideology to manifest itself, some of them requiring less fiscal space than others. What happened on the left after Sanders lost to Biden and the George Floyd protests took off in 2020, the shift from economic to cultural revolution, offers a case study in how radical energy gets redirected into culture war when its economic ambitions seem blocked off.

The right has long experience with this kind of redirection, and ample enthusiasm for cultural conflict. So expect more of it, from both sides, under conditions of fiscal constraint. And expect a slow-dawning realization among socialists and populists that the best time to carry out their ideas, the best moment for a radical policy departure, may have already come and gone.

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Let's have a new gun law for Fourth of July



Gail Collins

The Fourth of July is coming, and if all goes well — crossing many fingers — before Congress leaves town to celebrate, the House and Senate will have passed the first substantial gun safety legislation in nearly 30 years.

Yeah, the last big reform was in 1994. People were watching the pilot episode of "Friends" on TV, Jeff Bezos was founding Amazon and kids were hearing about a great new invention called PlayStation.

Chris Murphy was in college, just turning 21. "I bought my first beer legally," he said in a phone interview Wednesday.

Moving onward and upward, Murphy is now a member of the Senate from Connecticut and the lead Democratic negotiator on gun safety legislation.

And there's actually a real bill. Or at least a bipartisan agreement for what ought to be in a bill.

Our job for today is to decide how we feel about it. Three choices:

A. Awful! They don't even have a ban on the sale of assault weapons to 18-year-olds.

B. Not great! They keep putting all this power in the hands of the states when we all know how crazy some of the states are.

C. Hey, they're actually doing something — stop the negativity! Otherwise, you'll be the kind of perfectionist nobody wants to be standing next to while grilling holiday hamburgers.

Yeah, I think we ought to go with C.

"No bill I've ever been involved in has been perfect," said John Feinblatt, president of Everytown For Gun Safety, who's certainly been involved in his share. "But look at the big picture. You've got bipartisan support for a gun safety bill."

Well, 10 Republican senators publicly signed on, which is the number you need to get past the inevitable filibuster motion. That's 20% of the party's senators.

But once again, we need to think positive. Murphy told me that in 2012, when a gunman with an assault rifle killed 20 small children and six staff members in his district's Sandy Hook elementary school, only "one single Republican was willing to sit down and talk" about possible legislation — Sen. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania.

Ten is better than one. The plan they've come up with would make it easier to disarm domestic abusers, provide a lot of new money for community mental health programs and school security, and expand the background checks on gun buyers



Chris Murphy, D-Conn., talks to the media about talks on gun safety legislation last week in Washington. **KENT NISHIMURA/LOS ANGELES TIMES**

younger than 21.

"We couldn't have gotten an agreement on any single one of those items a month ago," Murphy said.

Even Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., seems to be coming around. The Senate Republican leader has always been pretty proud of his record on weapons legislation, which it's fair to summarize as anti-gun safety. But now he's given his blessing to some sort of reform. Perhaps he's seen the error of his ways. Perhaps he's seen the public polls.

If something is going to get done before the Senate goes off on its holiday recess, things have to happen pretty fast in a chamber not known for its speediness. "It took them five weeks to write an infrastructure bill. We have four days," Murphy said.

It'd be nice to see a lawmaker throw himself into a righteous cause and come out a winner, wouldn't it, people? There's even been a little talk about Murphy as a possible presidential contender, should Joe Biden decide not to run for reelection. "No, no, no, no, no, no," the senator responded

when asked about the idea.

What do you think? All I know is that once we get past this year's elections, everybody is going to start speculating about 2024, and we really need to collect some post-Biden options. You do not want to be at a holiday party next winter with no names to throw into the debate.

But about the gun bill.

The first — and let's face it, easiest — priority is to complain that Washington isn't rising to the occasion. "It's not enough," said Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker, after he rather grudgingly acknowledged the new Senate agreement represented some success.

You can understand why Illinois is touchy on this issue. At the NRA convention in Houston last month, speakers tried to skip over the mass shooting of Texas schoolchildren days earlier by talking about how many people get gunned down every year in Chicago. Mainly with weapons imported from other states, of course, although that part didn't really come up.

The horror of those murdered children

persuaded a lot of politicians to dodge that NRA gathering entirely. Although not Donald Trump, a politician who actually had no idea he had any strong feelings about guns until he noticed how much cheering they got at Republican gatherings. In Houston, Trump suggested responding to the Uvalde school shooting tragedy by arming teachers.

Right now our priority has to be rooting for the gun bill negotiators in Congress to get the job done before everybody goes home. "We've got to work through some pretty sticky wickets," Murphy said.

The wickets are, in fact, multitudinous, but at least things are moving along. "Victories beget victories," insisted Murphy.

There's a lot of territory to cover before we get to anyplace sane on the gun front. To anyplace near where surveys tell us the American people would like to go. But it'd be nice if, on July 4, we could celebrate with more fireworks and less gunfire.

Collins is a columnist for The New York Times.

Sorry, but we don't need a costly, government-forced detour to EVs

By Derrick Morgan
The Heritage Foundation

With gas prices nearing \$5 per gallon nearly everywhere, you'd think the left would be a little more careful "saying the quiet part out loud."

Take Sen. Debbie Stabenow of Michigan. After she bought a new electric vehicle — which costs close to \$60,000 on average — she bragged that on a recent trip to Washington she "went by every single gas station and it didn't matter how high (the price of gas) was."

Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, back when gasoline was about \$3.40 per gallon (just last November, incredibly) said, families that buy an EV "will never have to worry about gas prices again."

That's the transportation equivalent of saying, "Let them eat cake."

It has becoming painfully clear that some on the left actually want higher gas prices, all to force Americans to buy expensive EVs in order to defeat a "climate catastrophe." It's hard to come to a different conclusion when you see every-

thing they've done to restrict supply and discourage investments in American oil and refining.

The fact is that electric vehicles aren't the best choice for everyone, even with thousands of dollars in tax subsidies for EVs and hidden regulatory subsidies making regular cars cost more. Electric vehicles have limited range, and when you do refuel them, it takes a long time.

According to AAA, the range for an EV is reduced by about 40% when the weather is cold if you dare to use the heater. And it's reduced about 20% in the heat if you use the A/C.

Even when you super-charge — a practice manufacturers encourage you to do sparingly to preserve battery life — it can take 30 minutes or more for a full charge. If it's cold or hot outside, it takes even longer.

There is nothing wrong with choosing an EV, and if government policy let all cars compete on an equal playing field, some will do so.

But why should taxpayers fund the lifestyle choices of mostly rich buyers with a \$7,500 tax credit for a new car that most

Americans can't afford?

While President Joe Biden and his allies in Congress are busy telling everyone they should buy an EV, the administration is also advancing regulations and policies that increase the cost of the conventional vehicles they disdain so much.

Take the EPA's greenhouse-gas emissions standards, which aim to make conventional cars so expensive that half of all drivers choose an EV.

Consumers will weigh price, features and performance alongside miles per gallon, which the EPA already mandates be displayed on a window sticker. We don't need Washington's "help" in the form of high prices for fuel or vehicles.

As usual, California is out of touch.

There, Gov. Gavin Newsom wants to ban the sale of new gasoline-powered automobiles (along with lawn equipment). Every year, he forces manufacturers to sell more and more EVs by making regular cars cost more.

This isn't new — it's been a favorite ploy in the left's playbook for years. President Barack Obama said that to combat climate

change, electricity prices would "necessarily skyrocket," and Obama's budget director agreed that "price increases are essential" to get people to make different choices. Perhaps that's why Biden committed the gaffe of practically expressing glee at higher gasoline prices: "(When) it comes to gas prices, we're going through an incredible transition that is taking place that, God willing, when it's over, we'll be stronger and the world will be stronger and less reliant on fossil fuels when this is over."

No thanks, Mr. President. We don't want a government-forced transition. We want the federal government to stop talking down investment and increasing regulations in our energy sector. We want to go back to the future of American energy dominance that saw surging American supply — so much so that America was the world's biggest producer of oil and No. 1 fuel exporter in the world. Then he should trust us to make our own decisions about what car we buy.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

REQUEST FOR INTEREST #03-2203

The State of Connecticut Judicial Branch is soliciting responses to this Request for Interest (RFI), from qualified Practitioners to perform Independent Medical Evaluations statewide.

Response to this Request for Interest must be received by Friday, July 8, 2022 by 4:00 p.m.

Request for Interest packages may be obtained by accessing the Judicial Branch Purchasing Services web site below at:

www.jud.ct.gov/external/news/busopp/

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6/17/2022 7233939

Legal Notice Request for Letters of Interest Task Order Strategic Planning and Modal Corridor Studies

The Connecticut Department of Transportation is seeking to engage four consulting firms to provide support services for Strategic Planning and Modal Corridor Studies. The full legal notice can be found at: https://portal.ct.gov/DOI/Consultant-Selection/Consultant-Selection-Information.

Connecticut Department of Transportation
An Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer
6/17-6/22/22 7225494

6/15/22 LEGAL NOTICE To Whom It May Concern: Pursuant to Section 49-73b (a) & Sec 9-14, of the CT General Statutes Sections, notice of the following application is hereby given: Intent to demolish two structures at the rear of the properties known as 642 & 654 Park Street, Hartford. CT. Application are on file in the office of the Division of Licenses & Inspections, Department of Development, 260 Constitution Plaza, Hartford, CT.

7233294

East Hartford CT Minority Opportunity

Silktown Roofing is currently soliciting **SBE/MBE/DBE** subcontractors for Public Notice: East Hartford CT DOT 042-324 East Hartford Maintenance Facility at 161 Clement Road. **Material Supply; flat stock metal, lumber.** Our bid submits on Tuesday, June 21, 2022. If additional time is needed for your submission please call our estimating department. Interested parties are asked to contact us at subcontracting@silktownroofing.com. An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.
6/17/2022 7223419

New Britain CT Minority Opportunity - Silktown Roofing is currently soliciting **SBE/MBE/DBE** subcontractors for Public Notice: New Britain CT-New Britain Public Library Exterior Renovations and Repairs. Trades: plumbing, manlift equipment. Material Supply; flat stock metal. Our bid submits on Monday, June 20, 2022. If additional time is needed for your submission please call our estimating department. Interested parties are asked to contact us at subcontracting@silktownroofing.com. An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.
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Connecticut

LEGAL NOTICE Town of Berlin Request for Proposals Berlin Sidewalk Connectivity Bid # 2022-26

The Town of Berlin is seeking written BIDS for **Berlin Sidewalk Connectivity Project**: For a firm to be considered for this engagement, one (1) original and two (2) copies of sealed BIDS must be received in the Town Managers office of the Berlin Town Hall, 240 Kensington Rd, Room 101, Berlin, CT 06037 by 2 PM on July 14, 2022 at which date and time the bids will be publicly opened.

Plans and specifications for the above project are available from Advanced Reprographics, 50 Corporate Avenue, Plainville, CT 06062, (860) 410-1020. Plans and specifications may be viewed and/or obtained by going to the advanced reprographics website www.advancedrepro.net . Prospective bidders should access the "Planroom" on the website and go to the "public jobs" area, no log in information is necessary. Bidders are responsible for printing and shipping costs or pick up at the advanced reprographics office.

Plans and specifications may also be ordered by calling the advanced reprographics number listed above. Bidders are responsible for obtaining all and the latest addendums from the advanced reprographic website. The Contractor who is selected to perform this Project must comply with GEN. STAT. §§ 4A-60, 4A-60A, 4A-60G, AND 46A-68B through 46A-68F, inclusive, as amended by June 2015 Special Session Public Act 15-5. State law requires a minimum of twenty-five (25%) percent of the State-Funded portion of the contract for award to subcontractors holding current certification from the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services ("DAS") under the provision of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 4A-60G, (25% of the work with DAS certified small and minority owned businesses and 25% of that work with DAS certified minority, women and/or disabled owned businesses.)

The Contractor must demonstrate good faith effort to meet the 25% set-aside goals. The Contractor must be pre-qualified by the State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services. For municipal public works contracts and quasi-public agency projects, the contractor must file a written or electronic non-discrimination certification with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. Forms can be found at: HTTP://WWW.CT.GOV/OPM/CWP/VIEW.ASP?A=2982&Q=390928&OPMNAV_GID=1806

Each bid must be accompanied by bid security in the form of a certified check or bid bond, in an amount equal to five percent of the amount bid. Bid security shall be made payable to the Town of Berlin and shall be properly executed by the bidder. At the time of contract signing, separate 100 percent performance and 100 percent payment bonds will be provided the Town of Berlin

The Town reserves the right to amend or terminate this **INVITATION TO BID**, accept all or any part of a proposal, reject all proposals, waive any informalities or non-material deficiencies in a proposal, and award the proposal to the proposer that, in the Town's judgment, will be in the Town's best interests. The Town of Berlin is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Minority/Women's Business Enterprises are encouraged to apply.

Maryssa Tsolis
Purchasing Agent
mtsolis@berlinct.gov
6/17/2022 7234519

PROPERTY AUCTION

The tax collector of the Town of Canton has levied upon 30 East Hill Road in Canton described at Volume 133 Page 115 of the Canton land records and slated it for public auction to satisfy delinquent taxes and charges under C.G.S. § 12-157. The property is owned by the Estate of Amelia M. Waterhouse and the Estate of Pamela K. Waterhouse, owing \$7,276.96 through the end of last month. Additional taxes, interest, fees, and other charges authorized by law accruing after the last day of the month immediately preceding this notice are owed in addition to the amount indicated as due and owing in this notice.

The Connecticut Department of Revenue Services; the United States Internal Revenue Service; and the surviving spouses and heirs of Amelia M. Waterhouse and Pamela K. Waterhouse may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

Unless paid, this property will be auctioned in "as is" condition at 9:00 a.m. on August 9, 2022 at the Canton Community Center, Room F, 40 Dyer Avenue in Collinsville CT. Bidders must present \$5,000 in certified funds payable to "Pulman & Comley, Trustee" on the day of the sale, and the winning bidder must pay the balance of the sale price within 5 days or forfeit that deposit. Absent a redemption, the purchaser will take title "free and clear" six months after the auction except for certain encumbrances. Details at www.cttaxsales.com.
6/17/2022 7234106

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Liquor Notices

LIQUOR PERMIT NOTICE OF APPLICATION

This is to give notice that I, **KIMBERLY CRUMB, 87 GOVERNOR ST, NEW BRITAIN, CT 06053-1908**, Have filed an application placarded **06/16/2022** with the Department of Consumer Protection for a **PACKAGE STORE LIQUOR PERMIT** for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at **143 LOWREY PL, NEWINGTON, CT 06111-3003**. The business will be owned by NEWINGTON LIQUOR SHOPPE LLC. Entertainment will consist of: Objections must be filed by: 07-28-2022.

06/16/2022
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Cromwell
Lillian Cota
East Hartford
Melody A. Currey
Helen Lorenc
Ellington
Judith A. Keeler
Enfield
Barbara Ann Gaskell
Mary E Hopper
Hartford
Melody A. Currey
Helen Lorenc
Meriden
Nick Mango, Jr.
New Britain
John W Baker
Santo J. Defelice, Jr.
Elizabeth M. Radavich
Newington
Glenn Cronin
Thomas L Kinnane
Deacon Michael J.
O'Toole, Sr.

Other Towns in CT
Glenn Cronin
Jerome M Kulas
Raymond J. Lobasz
Benjamin M. Sorvillo
Out of State
Benjamin M. Sorvillo
South Windsor
Jeffrey P. Godin
Southington
Raymond J. Lobasz
Waterbury
Judith A. Keeler
West Hartford
Jeffrey P. Godin
Wethersfield
Nicholas A. Davis
Deacon Michael J.
O'Toole, Sr.
Windsor Locks
Jerome M Kulas

* Denotes name listing only.
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Baker, John W



John “Jack” Weston Baker Jr. passed peacefully on May 30, 2022. He is survived by his fiancée Bernadette D’amore of Kauai, HI; daughter Stacy Baker, partner Matt Conti, and grandson Dylan of Charlestown RI; daughter Lindsay Swiatek, husband Peter, and grandson Owen of Berlin Ct; son Christopher Damore-Chasse, wife Shannan, and grandchildren Liliana, Brielle, & Carter of Simsbury CT; son Robert Baker of Kauai HI; brother James Baker of Deep River Ct; brother Thomas Baker of New Britain Ct and a niece and nephew. He is predeceased by his parents John Baker Sr and Beatrice (Cronin) Baker of New Britain, Ct.

Jack was born on December 24, 1949 in New Britain CT. He graduated from New Britain High School in 1968. He worked at Beauty Enterprises in Hartford CT until his retirement in 2008. Jack was a member of St. Andrews parish since he moved to Kauai in 2009.

Jack was a free spirit with an incomparable sense of humor and wit. He saw the good in everyone, and made easy lifelong friends in all his travels. As a result, he “got a guy” for anything you needed. An avid reader, he could often be found on the beach with a book in his hand and his loyal dog moe by his side. A true music lover, Jack enjoyed discovering new music, seeing live shows, and sharing his discoveries with friends and family. Jack spent many summers as a member of the Pattaconk Yacht Club in Chester, CT. He loved being on the water and taking excursions to Montauk, NY. In the winter, he was rooting on the NY Giants. Jack was a devoted partner, father, brother, friend, & grandfather. Nothing made him happier than making smiley face pancakes for Lily, Brielle, and Carter. A huge thank you to Hope Lodge & Straub Medical Center ICU in Honolulu HI. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday September 10 2022 at 1pm at The Pattaconk Yacht Club 61 Dock Rd in Chester Ct. 06412

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Cronin , Glenn



Glenn Lawence Cronin passed away unexpectedly on May 19, 2022. He was born on March 24, 1949. Originally from West Hartford, Glenn grew up as the eighth of eleven Cronin children on Beverly Road. He graduated from Hall High School in 1967. He went on to serve in Vietnam as an Army Combat Medic from 1969-1972, earning three bronze stars with valor for heroism, awarded for his selfless acts of carrying his wounded comrades to safety under hostile enemy fire. Glenn was a great athlete in his day, playing both football and baseball, and enjoyed many happy golf outings later in his life. He was a big-time Yankee and Giants fan, and loved watching games with his family and friends. Glenn was predeceased by his wife Anne (Bees), his brothers Michael and Peter and his sisters Kathy (Chihocki), Sharon and baby Bea. He is survived by his sister Mary (Schmid), brother John and his wife Betty, brother Jeff and his wife Randi, brother James “Crickett” and his wife

Pam and brother Tom and his wife Aline. He is also survived by his son Brian Cronin, daughters Samantha (Andrews) and Karen (Dillon), son-in-law Tom Dillon, grandson Brandon Dillon and granddaughter Stephanie Grate and her husband Jeremy. Glenn was a person of true character who devoted his life to his family and friends. He possessed a generous spirit and a heart of gold; kindness and warmth flowed from him always. We are all blessed to have been surrounded by his love. Glenn is not gone, he is right beside us. We celebrate the joy he has brought to our lives. There will be a private burial and no formal services at this time. Donations can be made in Glenn’s name to the Wounded Warrior Project. woundedwarriorproject.org

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Godin, Jeffrey Paul

Jeffrey Paul Godin died June 13, 2022, at Riverside Health and Rehab Center. He was born in Boston, MA on April 5, 1958. He was the son of the late Raymond P. Godin and Joyce (Watts) Godin of Farmington. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his brother Douglas Godin. He is survived by a brother Eric Godin of Boston, MA and nephews, Aaron and Elijah Godin of Salem, MA; a niece Kelly Godin Capponcelli of Greenfield, MA and several aunts, uncles, and cousins. For many years Jeff has resided in a group home in South Windsor with two male roommates and 24-hour caring staff. He attended the Jeffrey Center, adult day activity program. Jeff enjoyed going on outings to sporting events, shopping, movies, church, and other outdoor activities, as well as trips by car. He also enjoyed listening to the radio and watching TV. Jeff made frequent overnight visits at home with his mother and other relatives. Funeral services are private. Memorial donations may be made to the Outreach Committee at First Church Congregational, 75 Main St., Farmington, CT 06032. Online expressions of sympathy may be made at www.molloyfuneralhome.com

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Kulas, Jerome M



Jerome M. Kulas (Jerry) was born on June 10th 1944. He passed away three days after his 78th birthday with his loving family by his side. Jerry was born in Hartford, CT to Helen (Golon) and Anthony J Kulas. Jerry is survived by his beloved wife Emily (Alaimo) Kulas of 54 years, his sons Jerry Kulas (Sandy) and Jeffrey Kulas (Kelly) and loving grandchildren Dennie (Lee). Jerry also departed countless nieces, nephews, friends, neighbors and family members. Jerry started his career working on his father’s tobacco farm at age 5. He paved our roads with the Windsor Locks Highway Department, worked part time with Standard Bellows Company, and retired after 27 years from Travelers Insurance Company. His true passion was cutting, hauling and splitting wood on the property of his dreams in Somers, CT. Jerry proudly served his country in the United States Army National Guard as Sergeant in the 242nd Engineering, Company D. He also served as Faithful Navigator 4th degree for the Knights of Columbus Council 50, Grand Knight for Knights of Columbus Somers 4303 and served as the Commander in the American Legion, marching with the Color Guard for Post 36. Jerry was best known for always being ready with a joke, finding the lighter side in any situation and filling a room with laughter. We are all so proud of you Jerry, a loving husband, a patient father and an inspiration to many. You will be loved and missed. The family would like to thank the staff and personnel at Evergreen Healthcare Center for their care and understanding in his final moments. Services will be held on Monday June 20, 2022. Viewing hours are between 9:00am and 10:30am at the Somers Funeral Home, 354 Main Street, Somers CT 06071. A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 11:00 am at All Saints Church, 25 School Street, Somers CT 06071 and final resting after mass at the Battle Street Cemetery, 24 Battle Street Somers Ct 06071. For online condolences, please visit www.somersfuneralhome.com.

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Mango, Jr., Nick



Nick Mango, Jr., 91, husband of Jeanne (Starke) Mango, passed away on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at Midstate Medical Center with his loving family by his side. Born in Bridgeport, Connecticut on June 20, 1930, he was the eldest son of the late Nicholas and Concetta (Irene) Mango. He had resided in Meriden for most of his life and graduated from Meriden High School, Class of 1948. Nick attended the University of Connecticut and graduated in 1953 with a bachelor’s degree in industrial engineering. While in college, he was a member of the Army ROTC, and upon graduating, he entered the U.S. Army. He was an honorable veteran of the Korean War where he proudly served his country for 18 months. Nick spent most of his tour at the DMZ. He married Jeanne in 1954 and was a parishioner of St. Rose of Lima Church. He retired from Pratt & Whitney Aircraft as a finance manager after more than 30 years of service. Nick was an artistic woodworker. He was a proud UConn alumnus and an avid UConn sports fan. He loved taking trips with his wife to the casinos, going to the beach and listening to 1970’s music. He was extremely active and fiercely proud of his grandchildren and their numerous activities. With the help of his grandniece, Nick recorded his service experiences in Pusan, Korea for the Veterans History Project housed in the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Besides his wife of 67 years, he is survived by his children, Thomas J. Mango, Lisa Mango and Susan Spence. He also leaves behind his grandchildren, Mackenzie Queenin (Chris), Kelsey and Justin Mango, Emily Albert (Zachary), Natalie Spence, and Kyle, Celeste and Tyler Thibault. He is also survived by his two siblings, Laura Crawford and Attorney Kenneth W. Mango (Sandra) and several nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his daughter Brenda Mango, his brother-in-law Allan Crawford and his nephew David Crawford. All services are private at the request of the family. Arrangements are under the direction of the John J. Ferry & Sons Funeral Home, 88 E. Main St., Meriden, CT 06450. The family would like to give a special thank you to the doctors and the many healthcare aides at Hartford HealthCare In-Home Services, the Newington VA and Midstate Medical Center. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to the UConn Foundation (2390 Alumni Drive #3206, Storrs, CT 06269) and/or Voluntary Service-Veterans Administration (555 Willard Ave, Newington, CT 06111). For online condolences, please visit jerryfth.com.

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Sorvillo, Benjamin Michael



Benjamin Michael Sorvillo, 32, of Harwich, Massachusetts and Ledyard, Connecticut, beloved son, grandson, brother, nephew, and friend, passed June 5, 2022. Born February 21, 1990, in Harwich, Ben grew to be an exceptional young man adored by all and excelled at everything he did, whether it be his encyclopedic knowledge of virtually everything, gift of conversation, ability to conquer any video game, among many other talents. From bartending at Brax Landing in Harwich to running businesses on Cape Cod, there was never a person who didn’t love Ben the moment they met him. Affectionately known as Benny Blanco and Ben-o, he opened his heart and embraced everyone he encountered. With that spirit, he leaves a legacy of companionship, compassion, brilliance, and specialness that won’t be equaled. He is a treasured person who blessed us all. Ben’s everlasting light will never dim for all the lives he touched. Ben is survived by his mother Julie Knott and Kevin Curtis; father Robert Sorvillo; brother Craig Sorvillo; grandmother Pamela Brazalovich; uncles Jason Knott and Steven Knott; close friends Jeff Gomes and Kyle Connors; as well as many friends and family who loved him and will cherish his memory forever. He was predeceased by his grandfather and closest friend Matthew Brazalovich. Upon the family’s wishes, no memorial service is planned. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Ben’s name to the charity of one’s choice.

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OBITUARIES

Radavich, Elizabeth "Betty" M.



Elizabeth “Betty” M. Radavich, 96, of New Britain, wife of the late Dominic Radavich, passed away peacefully on Sunday, June 12, 2022. Daughter of the late Antonio & Anna (Carrozza) Forgione, Betty was born and was a lifelong resident of New Britain. She was a member of St. Andrew’s Church in New Britain, Woman’s Club of Greater New Britain, New Britain ELKS Lodge 957 with Dominic, Lithuanian Seniors Club and New Britain Senior Center. She worked in Immigration Naturalization Service for over 45 years and helped a lot of families with immigration matters. She walked door to door to assist families in filling out the immigration forms correctly. A loving mother, sister, and aunt, she is survived by her son, Kurt Radavich; her brothers, William Forgione, and Joseph Forgione and his wife Mary Ann; her sister, Eileen Weber and her husband Edward; sister-in-law Nancy Forgione; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and their families. Betty will also be missed by her lifelong friend Jean Plocharczyk. She was predeceased by her husband Dominic; her two brothers, Pasquale and Raymond Forgione; and her sister, Margaret Ann Forgione. Betty’s family would like to extend a special thank you to her aide Barbara Golaszewski. Relatives and friends are invited to call on Monday, June 20, 2022 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Burritt Hill, 332 Burritt St., New Britain. Her funeral service will begin on Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Burritt Hill, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 a.m. at St. Andrew’s Church, New Britain. She will be laid to rest in St. Mary Cemetery, New Britain. To share your sorrow, please visit us at www.duksa.net.



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O'Toole , Deacon Michael J., Sr.



Deacon Michael J. O’Toole, Sr., 97, of Wethersfield, CT, died peacefully on Tuesday, June 14, 2022 after a brief illness. Born in Portland, ME, the son of the late Patrick and Delia (Curran) O’Toole, he briefly lived in Ireland before his parents returned to Portland. One of six children, Michael grew up in the depression era and worked from a young age to help support his family. Michael sold newspapers on the corner of Congress Street, collected “alchy” bottles and eventually worked for Western Union delivering telegrams. In 1943 he enlisted in the US Navy and served aboard the USS Cogswell, a Fletcher class destroyer in the South Pacific. His morse code skills acquired at Western Union provided him with a basis to become a Signalman First Class. Upon his Honorable Discharge in 1946, he was eligible for a per mile payment to return home and he calculated the furthest point to Portland to maximize his payment. Being eligible for the GI Bill, Michael was able to enroll and graduate from Georgetown University. After graduation he began a successful career in sales and received many sales achievement awards during his career with US Steel Cyclone Fence. Michael met the love of his life Mildred “Millie” Cowen and they married in 1951. A sales territory in Connecticut became available in 1956 and Michael and Millie relocated to Newington, CT. where they raised their six children. A devout Catholic, he was a member of the first group of the Diocese of Hartford ordained Deacons in 1973 and served faithfully at St. Mary’s Newington, St. Lawrence O’Toole Church and St. Augustine Church where he developed a lasting relationship with Father Philip Sheridan. He made many friends and especially appreciated his association with Father Shawn Daly and Father George Couturier. He was civic minded and was involved with many activities throughout the community. He was appointed to the Governor’s Council, Department of Developmental Services where he served for two terms. Michael coached youth basketball as his family was growing and rarely missed any of his children’s summer swimming meets. He was an avid painter and loved to fish. Michael was passionate about his health and for over 50 years was a regular at the Newington High School Track. Along with his original running partner Joseph Harrigan, he made many friends through the years, including Christine G., John C., Bill & Mike P., Ed M., George S., and Eric L. Michael “Mikey” was a product of the Great Depression era. Hard working, strong values, and a sense of helping others along with a great sense of humor. He was quick to smile and offer a story. During his years as Deacon, he baptized many children, counselled many marriage couples, and presided over numerous wakes and funerals always leaving families with the Francis de Sales, “Be at Peace” prayer. In addition to his wife Millie, he leaves six children, Michael O’Toole, Jr. (Maria), and Coleman O’Toole (Jean) all of Rocky Hill, Mary O’Toole (John Hamrick) of Franconia, NH, Kathleen Tetreault (Paul) of Wethersfield, Daniel O’Toole of Newington, and Lawrence O’Toole (Kathleen) of Trabuco Canyon, CA; 10 grandchildren, Coleman O’Toole, Jr. (Jenna), Timothy O’Toole (Jessica), Megan Alexander (William), Kristofer Whiting (Sujitra), Jennifer Whiting, Danielle Fix (Steven), Kathleen Hayes (David), Christine Sanabria (Alvin), Kimberly Tetreault, Corinne O’Toole; and eight great grandchildren. He also leaves a sister, Sr. Mary George O’Toole and a brother Patrick O’Toole, both of Portland, ME, and sister-in-Law Lauretta O’Toole of Enfield, CT; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by two brothers John O’Toole and Rev. Coleman O’Toole, and two sisters, Margaret Berry and Theresa O’Toole. Michael also valued his relationship with Millie’s extended Cowen family. Over the years, Michael developed a special friendship with Gary Toubman, DMD of Newington. The family would like to extend their sincere appreciation to the care given by Mary and Kate with AccentCare and the UConn Medical Center 4th and 6th floor medical and nursing staff. Their compassion and caring made Michael’s final days peaceful. Relatives and friends are invited to a Mass of Christian Burial on Monday June 20th, 1:00 p.m., at St. Mary’s Church, 626 Willard Ave., Newington, CT. He will be laid to rest privately with military honors in West Meadow Cemetery. There are no public calling hours and if attending his mass, please go directly to the church. The family requests masks be worn by all guests. In lieu of flowers, Memorial donations may be made to the Hartford Regional Center, 69 Mountain Road, Newington CT 06111 or Special Olympics Connecticut, Greater Middletown Program, 2666 State St #1, Hamden CT 06517. To share a message with his family, please visit us at www.duksa.net. Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington, is serving the family.



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OBITUARIES

Kinnane, Thomas L



Thomas L. “Grampa Tom” Kinnane, 63 of Newington, CT passed away peacefully on June 10, 2022 after a brief illness. He was born and raised in Hartford, the son of John and Jean (Condrón) Kinnane. Tom was a devoted husband to Lucy Kinnane for 34 years. Tom was blessed with two stepdaughters Natasha Costardo of Wethersfield and Nicole Cortezzo of North Carolina, and his grandchildren Aubrey and Joey Costardo and Devin and Louie Cortezzo, his brother in law Nick Giamatti of Big Pine Key, Fl. His sister Linda Diamond of Clinton, Ct and Thornton, NH and two nephews . He was predeceased by his sister Carol Kinnane . Tom was known for his simple and kind ways. He had a life long passion for working and collecting vintage cars. There was not a truck or car that would pass him without some kind of review. His meticulous nature shined on his home renovations and woodworking projects he took on through the years. He hoped that one of his favorite dogs Cheyene would be greeting him on the other side.

A memorial service will be held June 25th, 1-3 p.m. at Brooklawn Funeral Home, Rocky Hill. In lieu of flowers , donations can be made in his memory to the CT Humane Society, Newington

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Lorenc, Helen (Bednarz)



Helen Bednarz Lorenc, 86, of East Hartford, beloved wife for 56 years of Ted Lorenc, passed peacefully with her loving family by her side on Wednesday, June 14, 2022. Born in Hartford on July 20, 1935, daughter of the late Stanley and Anna (Koziarz) Bednarz, she was raised in Hartford and was a graduate of SS. Cyril & Methodius School and Bulkeley High School.

Helen made a career working for the Travelers Insurance Company in Hartford. After her retirement, she had multiple part-time jobs, including sales where she proved to be the perfect salesperson. One of her favorite jobs was working for the East Hartford public school system as a teacher's aide. She was a natural and loved interacting with all the children. She always felt this was her calling. Being with family was important to Helen. No matter what the occasion, family was everything to her. She also loved to dance. When she and her husband Ted danced, it looked like they were dancing on water, so effortless and enlivening.

Helen was also an active member of SS. Cyril & Methodius Church in Hartford where she participated in many organizations within the church community. One of her favorite times was visiting Rome and seeing Pope John Paul II. She was so happy when he became Saint John Paul II.

Helen is predeceased by her parents and her father and mother-in-law. Besides her husband, she leaves her son, John Lorenc and his partner Terez Fraser of South Portland, ME; a sister, Genevieve Bednarz of Wethersfield; a brother, Edward Bednarz and his wife Barbara of Wethersfield; brother-in-law Richard Lorenc of Vernon; three sisters-in-law, Irene Medeiros of Nantucket, MA, Evelyn Dudley and her husband Bruce of Sandwich, NH, and Brenda Sisco and her husband Brian of Ellington; four nieces, Lynn Medeiros, Hildee Medeiros, Lori Finnegan and Kathryn Sisco; three nephews, Bill Medeiros, Kevin Sisco and Cody O'Neill; and many loving cousins.

Her family will receive friends on Sunday, June 19, 3-6 p.m., at the Waszkelewicz South Green Memorial Home, 43 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford. Family and friends may gather on Monday, June 20, 9:15 a.m., at the Waszkelewicz South Green Memorial Home, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial, 10 a.m., at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church, Hartford. Burial will follow in Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. Memorial donations may be made to SS. Cyril & Methodius Church, 55 Charter Oak Ave., Hartford, CT 06106. The family cannot thank Masonicare enough for the compassionate and excellent care they provided to Helen. For online condolences please visit, www.carmonfuneralhome.com.



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Hopper, Mary E (Youtsey)



Mary Elizabeth (Youtsey) Hopper passed away peacefully in her sleep on June 7, 2022, at the age of 97, at the home of her eldest daughter in Cambridge, Vermont. Mary was born on January 4, 1925 in Brandt, Ohio, and graduated from Northridge High School in Dayton, Ohio during WWII. On March 9, 1956, Mary wed James (Jim) H. Hopper in Dayton, Ohio. They later relocated to Enfield, Connecticut where they lived for more than 15 years, and eventually they moved to Cape Cod where Mary lived in Brewster, Massachusetts until the spring of 2017.

Mary is survived by her three children, their spouses, a grandson, as well as several nieces and nephews: daughter Sharon R. and her husband Donald R. Thompson of Cambridge, Vermont; daughter Victoria G. and her husband William H. Oliver, Jr. of Somers, Connecticut; son Gary L. and his wife Carol (LaCross) Hopper of Jeffersonville, Vermont, and grandson Daniel W. Oliver of Austin, Texas. Mary was preceded in death by her husband of 46 years, James H. Hopper, her parents George R. and Clara Mae Youtsey, and her siblings Ralph O. Youtsey, Marguerite E. Nowotny, and Carl E. (Eddie) Youtsey.

A memorial service for Mary will be held in Brewster, Massachusetts which will be announced later this year. Please visit www.awrfh.com to read more a little more about her life, and where you are invited to share your memories of Mary.

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Currey, Melody A. (Stoesser)



Melody A. (Stoesser) Currey, 71, of East Hartford, loving wife of over 50 years to Donald M. Currey, decidedly cast her final ballot on Monday, June 13, 2022. Born in Margaretville, NY on December 17, 1950, a daughter to the late Janet June (Price) Hartman, she was a resident of East Hartford since 1978.

Melody was a passionate traveler who enjoyed taking road trips with her beloved husband and family. Always the competitor, she enjoyed participating in the Women's 9-Hole golf league on Wednesdays at East Hartford Golf Course, and was a talented card player, especially pinochle, where she mastered winning the trick.

One of her greatest wins, the one that started it all, was the day in October 1971 where Melody and Don joined forces. Over the next 50 years, that force led as an example of what love, kindness, and decency truly meant in this world.

After settling down in Portsmouth, NH, Melody and Don packed their truck with all of their possessions and set out to camp across the country, eventually settling in Anchorage, AK where Don was stationed and often took to the air in his Cessna to share in the beauty and majesty of "The Last Frontier." After some time - and a few pool hustles and extravagant bar tabs - Melody and Don welcomed their first child, Becky.

In 1976, the new family of three made their last apartment pitstop, moving back to New York State before building their life in East Hartford, CT in 1978. For a family that would eventually grow to five, East Hartford became their chosen home – a community chosen because of its working-class shine and openhearted residents.

Melody was one of The Moms who helped to raise not only her brood, but a generation of children who walked (likely ran) the halls of Silver Lane, EHMS, EHHS, and Synergy. She opened the family home for scout meetings, CCD classes, PTO brainstormers, countless pool parties, and a number of late-night sleepovers.

In those days, you'd always find her moving about in her blue jeans from Seaparks (if you know, you know) and a variety of solid-colored t-shirts. It was this "uniform" that she wore throughout the entirety of her early community work. Whether walking kids to Shea Park for free lunch to ensure the neighborhood was fed, carpooling to and from swim lessons, dance classes, and bowling league, attending local Democratic Town and District Committee meetings, or handing out pizza on half days or working the snack shack at a baseball game. This was the uniform of a Super Mom - no flash or flare needed. With Melody, it was always substance and success, believing you could do good things without being recognized.

Those mom jeans and tee's did get a bit of a glow-up when Melody made the decision to seek work outside of the home and began a brief stint at the JCPenney call center followed by a secretarial position at St. Mary's Church. It was then, following the election of 1990, that Melody was offered a position that would change her life and the lives of countless others forever.

In January of 1991, Melody and her skirts, which she hated but felt she had to wear so as to not emasculate any of her male colleagues or elected officials, began a renowned career under the gold dome in Hartford as the Clerk of the Banks Committee for House Democrat's Office. Her work ethic, quick wit, and ability to get things done, quickly earned her a position as a Legislative Aide to East Hartford's own - State Representative Rosemary Moynihan.

In the spring of 1992, when it was decided that Rep. Moynihan would not seek re-election, Melody, an unlikely contender at the time, was asked to step up and fill those heels. But of course, Melody was smarter than that - knowing full well that sensible shoes, and the new staple – a blazer – were the way to go. During each of her campaigns, she wore through countless pairs of those sensible shoes as she walked many miles and door knocked the district as though her community depended upon it. Representing the 10th Assembly District, her adopted hometown of East Hartford, was one of the greatest privileges and honors bestowed upon her.

During her eleven years in the CT General Assembly, Melody served on a number of committees, including Education, Appropriations, Regulation and Review, Judiciary and as the Democrat lead of the Reapportionment Committee of 2001. In her sophomore term, Melody was appointed by then-Majority Leader Moria Lyons to serve as a Deputy Majority Leader and later as her Chair of Screening – positions her son, Jeff, would hold almost twenty years later.

When Majority Leader Lyons was elected Speaker of the House, Moira and Melody, or "Moria's enforcer" as some have recently shared, kept their partnership intact with Speaker Lyons naming Melody Deputy Speaker. This is where Melody was able to successfully navigate through the headwinds of a male-dominated field where, before the recent resurgence of fighting for women's rights, she quietly (or not?) paved a path for countless women to follow that would ensure their voices would be heard...even if it got her seated in the back row of the Chamber. From there and many places thereafter, she shaped the lives and provided opportunities that would change the trajectory of so many individuals, many of whom still find themselves fighting the good fight at the State Capitol and beyond.

Melody took that fight and all her subtle vigor to the electors of East Hartford in 2005 where she successfully campaigned and was elected Mayor. During her more than five years in Town Hall, Melody was the linchpin that saw East Hartford through the Great Recession and rebuilt a community that she held in the highest regard until the moment of her death.

Yet again, her passion and dedication for the work earned her a new title when Governor-elect Dannel Malloy appointed her to head up everyone's favorite public-facing agency, the CT Department of Motor Vehicles (no shade, DMV!). Melody was known for walking her signature blazer/broach combo through the halls and rooms of the DMV, speaking with residents and often bringing folks directly up to the office to have complex matters quickly worked out.

After four years of effectively creating new systems of efficiency that laid the groundwork for the success CTD MV sees today, Governor Malloy would ask Melody to lead the prodigious Department of Administrative Services where she, among many other accomplishments, led the renovations of new state office buildings, including the towers along the CT River where her office on the 15th floor looked out over East Hartford, reminding her to remain grounded and focused on what mattered, and where it all began.

In addition to her elected and appointed positions, including her stint as the Acting-Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, Melody served as the President of the Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Educational Funding, the President of the Council of Connecticut Municipalities, and the Chair of the Capitol Regional Council of Governments. Her community involvement also included active membership in the EH Lions Club, EH ChildPlan, Inc., EH School Readiness Council, Democratic Women's Club, Democratic Town Committee, Veterans Who Care, Science Center of CT Leadership Council, Neighborhood Revitalization, Elementary and Secondary schools PTA/PTO, Federal Parent Advisory Council, CCD Coordinator for St. Mary's, Girl Scout Leader, Little League baseball team mother, and EH Community Care, Inc.

Out of all the titles Melody had over the years, she was especially fulfilled in her non-elected, but well-deserved role as Mom and Grandma. She was immensely proud of her children and their respective personal (I mean, who has 5 kids these days, Matt!) and each of their professional accomplishments. Grandma Currey, with the love of her life, Don, loved spoiling her grandchildren - always offering a lap to crawl on to, a good book to read, a deck of cards to play with (don't you even think about cheating!), and a sweet treat.

For those who may not know the person behind the blazer and broach, Melody was an amazing daughter, sister, wife, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, legislator, Mayor, and State Commissioner who exemplified leadership in every fiber of her body. She was available, direct, and supportive, always listening to any perspective with interest and respect. Most importantly, she was fair, equitable, and ethical no matter the impact to her personally or politically. Melody epitomized the politician who we should all hold in high esteem and aspire to be. One we should all learn from in order to hold ourselves accountable while maintaining the highest of standards. Her legacy lives on through the countless laws she enacted and the values she instilled in her family, and her elective prowess led to life-altering improvements for East Hartford and State of Connecticut residents. Hers was a race well run.

Along with her devoted husband Don, Melody is survived by three beloved children, Becky Johansen, State Representative Jeff Currey, and Matthew Currey and his wife Danielle, whom Melody loved as one of her own, all of East Hartford; six adored grandchildren, Matthew Jr., Devin, Lily, Mariah, Deliah, and Maxwell. She also leaves a niece, Janet Buckmiller and her husband Emil of Mechanicville, NY; two grandnieces, Shanna Nichols of Malta, NY, and Danielle Ostrom of Schenectady, NY; several cousins, former co-workers, constituents, and dear friends. Besides her mother, she was predeceased by her son-in-law, Eric M. Johansen of East Hartford; two brothers, Roy Daniels and Bruce Stoesser; a sister, Gay Daniels Baker; and a niece, Wendy Nichols.

Funeral service will be Wednesday, June 22, 2022 with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at 10:30 am at St. Mary's Church of North American Martyrs Parish, Main Street/Maplewood Avenue, East Hartford. Burial will follow at Silver Lane Cemetery in East Hartford. The family has requested that everyone please go directly to the church on Wednesday morning. The family will receive relatives, friends, and anyone whose lives were enriched due to knowing Melody on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 from 2 – 7 pm at the D'Esopo-East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter Street, East Hartford. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions towards a scholarship in Melody's memory to support the next generation of women in power may be made to the East Hartford Alumni Association and Education Foundation at info@ehalumnifoundation.org. For on-line expressions of sympathy to the family, please visit www.desopoech.com.



D'Esopo
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OBITUARIES

Cota, Lillian



Lillian Delores (Amenta) Cota, 101, of Cromwell, wife of the late Charles L. Cota, passed away from this life into the arms of Our Lord on Monday, June 6, 2022. She was the daughter of the late Antonino and Lucia (Rosano) Amenta. Lillian was a life-long resident of Cromwell where she and Charlie raised their seven children and were members of St. John Church. She participated in many church, school and community organizations throughout her life. Lillian loved spending time with her family and friends, was always “on the go” even though she never drove a car and was devoted to attending daily Mass on television. Lillian is survived by her loving, dedicated and attentive family including her three daughters, Barbara (Cota) Bohn and her husband, Don (with whom she made her home for the last 32 years of her life), Elizabeth “Liz” Cota and Pete DePaulo of Niantic and Andrea Cota of Rhode Island; her four sons and daughter-in-laws, Leon “Lee” and Beth Cota of Cromwell, Charles “Chuck” and Barbara Cota of Cromwell, Joseph and Corinne Cota of Florida, Robert and Lynn Cota of Southington. Lillian is also survived by sixteen grandchildren and their spouses who all adored her, Jenna (Bohn) and Jon Driscoll, Jason and Dorothy Bohn, Brian and Alyssa Cota, Kevin and Julie Cota, Chas Cota, Cindy (Cota) and Ed Hertwig, Kristen (Cota) and James Sutton, Kate (Cota) and Anthony McElligott, Kyle Cota, Trevor Cota, Christian Eigner, Jacob Eigner, Justin Eigner, Catherine Cota, Robert Cota, Lewis Cota and her fourteen great-grandchildren who treasured her deeply, Mason Bohn, Matthew, Kiley and Andrew Bohn, Analiese, Aidan, Kieran and Conor Driscoll, Ella Hertwig, James Sutton, Paul James and Calvin Cota, Alejandro and “Baby Sibling” McElligott. Lillian is also survived by her youngest sister, Marie (Amenta) Millardo of Portland. Lillian and Marie spent their time together each week at hair appointments, lunch, shopping or just visiting with each other, cousins or friends. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins. Besides her husband, Lillian was predeceased by six siblings, Minnie Marino, Angela Arcidiacono, Vencenza “Jennie” Amenta, Constance Halstead, Ann Bradley and Sebastian V. Amenta. Lillian's family is grateful for the kind, compassionate & loving care provided to her in her final weeks by the entire staff at Elm Park in Cheshire, CT. We are also thankful for the companionship & love given to her in her home by Sharon Dahlmeyer-Giovannitti. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, June 23rd at 11:30am at Saint John Church. Per the family, masks are required in church. Burial will follow at the State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown. In lieu of flowers, donations in Lillian's memory may be made to the Divine Mercy Chapel, St. John Church, 5 St. John Court, Cromwell, CT 06416 or The Office of Radio and Television, 15 Peach Orchard Road, Prospect, CT 06712. Cromwell Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. To share memories or send condolences to the family, please visit www.doolittlefuneralservice.com.

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Davis, Nicholas Alexander



Nicholas Alexander Davis, age 31, died May 20, 2022 after a long battle with cancer. Nick is survived by his parents, Robert C Davis and Susan L Davis, his brother, Gregory S Davis, his loving wife, Andi T Davis, and their son, Grayson A Davis. He is also survived by his aunts and uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews, and many friends.

Nick grew up in Wethersfield, CT and graduated from Wethersfield High School. He went on to receive a Bachelor of Science from CCSU in Industrial Technology. Nick moved to Houston, TX at the age of 22 where he pursued his career in IT. Nick loved exotic cars and was a member of the Lamborghini car club of Houston, TX.

Nick will be remembered, not only for his successes in business, but more importantly how he made everyone he met feel special. He always encouraged everyone to be their best. He had the strength to keep pushing forward even during difficult times without complaining. He was a loving husband and father. If we can live our lives a fraction of the way Nick lived his, we truly will have made the world a better place.

Nick, it broke our hearts to lose you, but you didn't go alone for parts of us went with you, the day God called you Home. You will always be loved and missed. Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of ALFONS 'AL' SKUDLAREK



06/17/1941-11/11/2020



TODAY WOULD BE YOUR 81ST BIRTHDAY! WE ARE TORMENTED EACH AND EVERY DAY TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO YOU SO THAT YOU DID NOT DIE IN VAIN. NO STONE WILL BE LEFT UNTURNED. WE WILL NOT REST UNTIL JUSTICE PREVAILS, NO MATTER WHAT THE COST OR UPHILL BATTLE MAY BE. YOU PROVIDED ME WITH THE GIFT OF MY MEDICAL EDUCATION AND I, AS YOUR DAUGHTER, PROMISE YOU THAT THE TRUTH WILL COME OUT, WITH GOD'S HELP! LOVE YOU DUDDSY...

Keeler, Judith A. (Crane)



Judith A. (Crane) Keeler, 75, of Ellington, beloved wife of 40 years to the late Allan Keeler (2008), passed away at home on Tuesday, June 14, 2022, surrounded by her loving family. Her faith sustained her as she experienced peace and serenity entering into eternal life. Born in Waterbury, the daughter of the late Roderick and Beatrice (Krappa) Crane, she grew up and lived in Waterbury before moving to Ellington. She graduated from Wilby High School in Waterbury in 1964 where she took business classes. She wrote a weekly school column called Through the Halls at Wilby and sang in the Glee Club. Judy and Allan were married on October 12, 1968 and shared 40 wonderful years together. Judy spent 35 years working for New England Dermatology in Vernon with many wonderful co-workers. She was famous for her annual office poems which perfectly captured the events of the year. She had a love for watching sports especially UConn Basketball, NBA, WNBA, and the Yankees. She also loved writing poetry, shopping, playing setback and Scrabble, watching Hallmark movies and celebrating holidays with her loving family. Judy loved visiting with family in Pennsylvania and going on cruises with her in-laws. She also loved the annual family vacation in Ogunquit, ME with walks along the Marginal Way, Perkins Cove, Walker's Point, and treating her grandchildren to a visit at Funtown Splashtown U.S.A. Judy will be remembered for her optimism, fierce strength, infectious laugh, loyalty to friends and family, and beautiful voice. She could always be counted on for sound advice and will be dearly missed by her family and friends. She was a longtime member of Union Church in Rockville. A devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, Judy leaves behind her two daughters, Jennifer Lynch and her husband John of Milford, and Tina Mackenzie and her husband Paul of Deep River; three grandchildren who affectionately called her “G”, Ian and Kayleigh Mackenzie, and Molly Lynch. She also leaves behind three siblings, Michael Crane and his wife Lorraine of Waterbury, Jeanne Warner and husband Jim of West Hartford, and Tom Crane and his wife Elaine of Watertown, and several nieces and nephews. Judy was also pre-deceased by her nephew, Jamie Warner. A special thanks to Dr. Ann Partridge, MD, MPH and the amazing staff at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute for giving Judy such amazing care. In addition, many thanks to Nancy Gozdz and Bella Caron for their devoted friendship, love, and support. Her family will receive friends for calling hours on Monday, June 20, 2022 from 5-8 pm at the Ladd-Turkington & Carmon Funeral Home, 551 Talcottville Road (Route 83), Vernon. A funeral service will be held on Tuesday, June 21, at 10am at Union Church, 3 Elm Street, Rockville. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Judy's memory may be made to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284 or online at www.dana-farber.org/gift. For online condolences and guest book, please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com



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Hartford Courant

CONNECTICUT

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Bristol Hospital cuts management staff

Layoffs part of effort to combat ‘unprecedented’ labor, supply costs amid challenges of pandemic

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

Buffeted by the pandemic as well as spiking labor costs, Bristol Hospital on Thursday laid off 10 managers and cut 21 vacant jobs to help save \$3.9 million this year. President Kurt Barwis emphasized that no medical staff or patient services employees are affected, and that there will be no changes to patient care at the hospital, its ambulance service or

Ingraham Manor. “There are absolutely zero reductions there. We made sure this was not going to impact our service at all,” Barwis said Thursday. The job cuts will still leave the overall Bristol Health system with about 1,750 employees. In addition, the hospital’s executives all took an 8% pay cut for the year, according to an announcement. “I told the executive team that

I was doing it, and they all volunteered,” Barwis said. After posting a \$13.9 million operating loss in the last fiscal year, the independent Bristol Hospital has been looking for ways to improve its finances in 2022. It has hired Impact Advisors, a consultant, to design a plan for a targeted \$5.5 million in savings this year, largely through better management of costly supply chain disruptions. “The current financial environment for health care institutions is extremely difficult due to the effects of the pandemic, Medicare

Advantage abuse and our inability to get commercial insurers to increase our payment rates in response to unprecedented labor and supply cost inflation,” Barwis said in a message to employees. Since the pandemic began, hospitals have reported paying substantial bonuses to get and retain nurses, technicians and other employees, particularly for short-notice assignments when filling in for regular employees who are out. Like other community hospitals, Bristol has called on private insurers to increase their payments for procedures and services because

labor costs are up nearly 20%. At the same time, revenue has been less predictable because the day-to-day volumes of inpatient admissions and outpatient procedures now vary widely. But Barwis emphasized that the current downturn isn’t something entirely new, either. “This is not the first time conditions have been challenging. When I got here in 2006, the situation was worse. Then there was the 2008 recession,” he said. “Every time, we’ve made the hard decisions and focused on our strategic

Turn to Hospital, Page 2

State’s jobless rate falls to 4.2%

1,600 added in May with hospitality, food services going strong

By Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

Employers in Connecticut added 1,600 jobs in May, bringing the unemployment rate to its lowest level since before the pandemic, but the state’s labor force still struggles to get back on its feet following the pandemic and posted job losses in manufacturing and construction, two key industries, the state Department of Labor reported Thursday. The number of unemployed workers fell by 5,000, pushing the unemployment rate to 4.2%, down 0.2% from April. In contrast, the U.S. unemployment rate in May was 3.6%. Connecticut has recovered about 86% of private sector jobs lost due to COVID-19 business shutdowns. Patrick Flaherty, the Department of Labor’s research director, said the food services and hospitality sectors are showing strength, “trends we hope will continue as we head into summer.” And data are backing up what economists say they observed during the pandemic: Workers are leaving payroll jobs to pursue self-employment. Connecticut’s private sector employment expanded by 2,900 jobs in May. Jobs in government again fell last month by 1,300, with state government employment now falling six consecutive months as retirements take their

Turn to Jobs, Page 2

CYBER YANKEE 2022



The Connecticut National Guard, the University of New Haven and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency are hosting Cyber Yankee, an annual security training event in Niantic. DOUGLAS HOOK/HARTFORD COURANT

Safeguarding the US against cyberthreats

National Guard, University of New Haven team up for security training

By Douglas Hook
Hartford Courant

Brig. Gen. Gerald (Gerry) E. McDonald Jr. told the Courant that the two-week online security exercise, Cyber Yankee, is a way of recognizing the future military personnel that will safeguard United States infrastructure in an increasingly dangerous cyber world. “This is a great opportunity for us to work with our public and private sector partners in the critical infrastructure space,” said Lt. Col. Cameron Sprague, Cyber Yankee 2022 exercise director. “As a response force, the National

Guard stands ready to respond, whether it be a hurricane or cyberattack.” The Connecticut National Guard, in coordination with the University of New Haven and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), exercise includes cyber training for incident responders, including digital forensics, reverse engineering, malware analysis and incident response fundamentals. National Guard Capt. Seth William told the Courant that it could take years to train a person to be proficient enough to deal with possible online threats. Since 2006, William has been

part of the team to fight this threat with the National Guard and his civilian life as a security architect. The training, called Project Ironclad, is provided by the University of New Haven through a National Security Agency grant to train Department of Defense personnel on cyber response actions. Week two of the exercise focuses on real-time incident response across several simulated compromised networks, representing several critical infrastructure sectors, as seen in recent attacks on the Colonial Pipeline and SolarWinds cyberattacks.

Merriam OK’d by Senate panel

Former Hartford attorney gets key win for US appeals court

By Edmund H. Mahony
Hartford Courant

The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee recommended confirmation Thursday of District Judge Sarah A.L. Merriam’s nomination to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. The committee voted 12-10, largely along party lines in favor of Merriam, with one Republican senator joining Democrats. The full Senate must vote to confirm Merriam and is expected to do so easily. President Joe Biden nominated Merriam, a former federal public defender and U.S. Magistrate judge, to the federal district court and she was confirmed in October. Her almost immediate nomination to the circuit court — just months after she easily won Senate approval — is seen by court watchers as a measure of the administration’s desire to move judicial nominations quickly before the Democrats risk losing the Senate in the November mid-term election. “The Senate will confirm Merriam soon, perhaps before the July 4 recess,” said University of Richmond law professor Carl Tobias, who tracks federal judicial nominations.



Merriam

Turn to Court, Page 2

Ambulance full of lifesaving equipment headed to Ukraine

Hartford HealthCare donation to Irpin ‘an unbelievable honor’

By Alison Cross
Hartford Courant

A Hartford HealthCare ambulance left for Ukraine Thursday, carrying thousands of dollars worth of medical supplies to provide lifesaving support to civilians and soldiers in the war-torn country. Hartford HealthCare has donated the ambulance to Irpin, a city adjacent to Kyiv, whose fleet

of more than 100 ambulances has dwindled to less than 10 after Russian shelling and bombings in the region. The coordinated effort between Hartford HealthCare, Connecticut EMS teams and Premier Inc. started last week, when Neurosurgeon Joseph Aferzon contacted Hartford HealthCare President & CEO Jeff Flaks about a donation. “I’m from central Ukraine. I came here when I was 18 and I have a lot of friends [in Ukraine]... they are struggling to get ambulances and life support equipment,” Aferzon said. “As a medical community here we certainly have

the understanding and knowhow to be directly helpful. And I think in the struggle that they’re going through, meeting their medical needs is extremely important. I think that’s what makes a difference.” Flaks said that Hartford HealthCare made donations to Ukraine in the past, but that it was important for him to meet this immediate need and continue the momentum of support as the war continues. “It’s an unbelievable honor for us within our health system to be

Turn to Ambulance, Page 2



An ambulance bound for Irpin, Ukraine, is loaded onto shipping containers at Hartford HealthCare on Thursday. ALISON CROSS/HARTFORD COURANT

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CONNECTICUT

POLICE BRIEFS

BROOKFIELD

Body recovered in Candlewood Lake

State police recovered the body of an adult male in Candlewood Lake in Brookfield Thursday, after a multi-week search for a missing 24-year-old, according to Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Communications Director Will Healey.

The Connecticut State Police Dive Team recovered the body in the same region of the lake as the young adult male, 24, had gone missing on May 29. The search has continued each day since the man went missing, according to Healey.

The Office of the Chief State Medical Examiner will determine cause of death, Healey said.

Identification of the body found Thursday has not yet been officially released and is “pending positive identification and notification,” Healey said. The Brookfield Police Department said “the body of the missing boater has been found” in an update to its Facebook post on the case Thursday.

— Mike Mavredakis

HARTFORD

Police probing Martin St. death

Hartford police are investigating after the body of a city man was found Wednesday afternoon at a home on Martin Street, according to Lt. Aaron Boisvert.

The man, whose body was found at 32 Martin St., was identified by police as Brian Knighton, 54, who resided at the location, according to Boisvert.

Investigators from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner observed “obvious signs of assault to the body,” Boisvert said.

The Major Crimes and Crime Scene Division is investigating the death. It is an active and ongoing investigation and anyone with information is asked to call the Hartford police tip line at 860-722-8477.

— Mike Mavredakis

TRUMBULL

Man, 61, dead in wrong-way crash

A 61-year-old man died after the car he was driving the wrong way on Route 25 in Trumbull hit another vehicle head on, according to state police.

Shahid Malik of Easton was pronounced dead at the scene Wednesday, police said.

Police said the other driver was in the left lane of Route 25, south of the Route 111 intersection, when it was hit by Malik’s vehicle, significantly damaging both vehicles. Malik’s vehicle was traveling southbound in the left lane on Route 25 north, in the wrong direction, when the crash occurred, according to state police.

Police identified the other driver as Texroy Mcdain Scott, 35, of Ansonia. Scott was taken to St. Vincent’s Hospital with minor injuries.

The State Police Collision Analysis Reconstruction Squad is assisting in the investigation, which is ongoing, police said.

— Mike Mavredakis

Police: 2 dead in possible home invasion

By Mike Mavredakis
Hartford Courant

Two people were shot to death during an apparent home invasion Thursday morning in East Hartford, police said.

Police responded to 87 Graham Rd. just after midnight Thursday after a neighbor called 911 to report that they’d heard gunfire. Officers arrived at the home

and found two people suffering from gunshot wounds. They were treated by paramedics from the East Hartford Fire Department and were taken to a local hospital where they were both pronounced dead, according to the East Hartford Police Department.

The pair were shot by a man who lived in the house, police said. The man who lived in the home

suffered minor injuries in the incident but did not need medical attention. He was cooperating with detectives and no charges had been filed as of Thursday afternoon, police said.

The incident was being investigated as a possible targeted home invasion. There did not appear to be any danger to the public, police said.

The two people who died have

not yet been identified, police said.

According to East Hartford Property Records, the shooting happened inside a white two-family duplex owned by Trieu Phuong, of Southington.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to contact Detective Dan Ortiz at 860-291-7669 or call the East Hartford Police Anonymous Tip Line at 860-289-9134.



Hartford HealthCare President & CEO Jeff Flaks speaks Thursday at Hartford HealthCare as an ambulance is packed for shipping to Ukraine.

Ambulance

from Page 1

making this additional contribution and to be helping the support, the safety and the health and the welfare of really all of the civilian population and the brave people who are defending Ukraine,” Flaks said. “We stand with the people of Ukraine and we will continue to do whatever we can, however we can, to support the people in Ukraine. And sending this ambulance and these supplies there, we know will do a tremendous amount of good.”

The ambulance was set to be decommissioned and placed into EMS reserves, a typical path in the lifecycle of emergency vehicles, according to Kevin Ferrarotti, the senior system director at Hartford HealthCare’s EMS network. The vehicle is a 2016 model that was last used by an EMS team on Monday. Ferrarotti said the ambulance still has thousands and thousands of miles left to drive.

Ferrarotti said that nine other EMS agencies outside of the Hartford HealthCare system dug into their reserves to donate stretchers, first responder bags, AEDs,

“They actually need our help more now than they ever did. The huge outpouring of support that we witnessed at the beginning of the war for the first three weeks was incredible. But we can’t forget about it now.”

— Lillia Taschuk, regional manager for S2S Global of Premier Inc.

and other medical supplies to Ukraine.

Lillia Taschuk is a regional manager for S2S Global of Premier Inc. who helped facilitate the shipment to Ukraine. She was born in the U.S. but is Ukrainian and has family and friends who still live in the country.

Since the start of the war, Taschuk said several Premier Inc. members, including Hartford HealthCare, have donated more than \$4 million in medical supplies to Ukraine.

“They actually need our help



Hartford HealthCare and nine other EMS agencies donated lifesaving equipment to Ukraine. ALISON CROSS PHOTOS/HARTFORD COURANT

more now than they ever did,” Taschuk said. “The huge outpouring of support that we witnessed at the beginning of the war for the first three weeks was incredible. But we can’t forget about it now.”

Taschuk said that the ambulance donated by Hartford HealthCare will make a big difference in saving Ukrainian lives.

“This ambulance is beyond remarkable, because of the need

to be able to treat the critically wounded and get them to the care that they need to truly save their lives,” Taschuk said. “I can’t thank this team enough for all of their support and efforts and everything that they’ve done to be able to make this happen in such a short period of time.”

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Court

from Page 1

Even as Merriam appeared at the Senate, the White House was running background checks on two prospective nominees for a third Connecticut seat on the circuit court — one a member of the state Supreme Court and a second a member of the Yale Law School. For years, it had been accepted that Connecticut had two seats on the appeals court, which takes cases from Connecticut, Vermont and New York.

But U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn, said earlier this year his research shows Connecticut

has historically had three appointments and that New York’s senior U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer agreed to give one up.

Because of the Senate’s summer vacation schedule and the prospect of members leaving Washington to campaign in September, there is pressure on the White House to move quickly to nominate a judge for a third Connecticut seat in order to clear the time-consuming confirmation process by year’s end.

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, urged fellow committee members to approve Merriam, whose nomination he and fellow U.S. Sen. Christopher Murphy recommended to the White House.

“Judge Merriam reflects the tremendous experience, character and intellect that is paramount to serving in our judicial system,” Blumenthal said. “She has said that she believes that partisan politics has no place in judicial chambers. And I believe that she will carry this practice with her to the court of appeals.”

Merriam was a law clerk for former governor and federal appeals court Judge Thomas Meskill and U.S. District Judge Alvin Thompson.

If confirmed, she would replace U.S. Circuit Judge Susan Carney, former deputy general counsel at Yale University, nominated by President Barak Obama and

confirmed in 2011. Merriam’s elevation opens another seat on the federal district court.

Merriam, who grew up in New Haven, attended Georgetown University as an undergraduate and law school at the University of Connecticut and Yale University. Prior to becoming an assistant federal defender, she served as an associate at the law firm of Cowdery, Ecker & Murphy in Hartford.

She also worked as political director to a state employee union local and managed or helped manage campaigns for two Democratic U.S. senators — Murphy and former U.S. Sen. Christopher Dodd.

Jobs

from Page 1

toll. The government sector in Connecticut includes federal, state, local, school and tribal employment at the state’s two casinos.

The public sector has recovered 39.8% of jobs lost due to the COVID lockdown.

Labor Commissioner Danté Bartolomeo cautioned that the rising cost of energy, inflation driving up prices of most other goods, declining values on stock markets and other factors could have an impact on Connecticut’s financial services sector.

Chris DiPentima, president of the Connecticut Business & Industry Association, said job growth of 0.8% this year is half the national rate and the lowest in New England.

“It is discouraging to see the construction sector lose 1,300 jobs and manufacturing lose 200 positions,” he said. “These sectors are critical to driving economic

growth in Connecticut.”

What industries hired?

- Professional and Business Services, (scientific, technical, management and administrative jobs) up 500, or 1.7%.
- Leisure and Hospitality added 500, up 0.3%.
- Trade, Transportation & Utilities posted an increase of 400 jobs, up 0.1%.
- Financial Activities, up 300, or 0.3%.

Which industries shed jobs?

- Construction and Mining, down 1,300 jobs, or -2.1%.
- Government shed 1,300 jobs, down 0.6%.
- Manufacturing dropped 200 jobs, off 0.1%.

Jobs created in two of Connecticut’s six labor markets: The Norwalk-New London-Western labor market area was the strongest in monthly hires and in percentage terms, adding 500 jobs.



Construction and mining in Connecticut shed 1,300 jobs in May, a drop of 2.1%, the Department of Labor reported Thursday. COURANT FILE PHOTO

The Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk labor market area added 200 jobs, an increase of 0.1%.

The New Haven labor market led job declines, losing 1,000, a drop of 0.3%.

Danbury’s labor market posted a decline of 400 jobs, down 0.5%.

The Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford labor market shed 400 jobs, a decline of -0.1%.

Waterbury’s labor market lost 300 jobs, a decline of 0.5%.

Stephen Singer can be reached at ssinger@courant.com.

Hospital

from Page 1

plan and patient care — and we’ve grown stronger.”

For 2021, the hospital reported fewer admission and fewer emergency room visits, and it hosted fewer surgeries than in 2020.

Bristol, which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary, is one of fewer than 10 independent community hospitals in Connecticut. Most are units of the major groups: Hartford HealthCare, Yale, Trinity or Nuvance.

In the past several years, Bristol Hospital has built a 60,000-square-foot medical office center downtown, entirely rebuilt its emergency room and launched a senior behavioral health unit. It has also opened medical centers or offices of its Multi Specialty Group physicians’ network in neighboring communities.

CONNECTICUT

Military spending bill takes 1st step in Congress

\$857.6B measure includes billions for state’s defense industry

By Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

An \$857.6 billion military spending measure for 2023, with billions of dollars for Connecticut’s sprawling defense industry, took its first step in Congress Thursday, advancing out of a key Senate committee.

With a backdrop of war in Europe, rising tensions with China and Iranian nuclear ambitions, the Armed Services Committee approved, 23-3, the National Defense Authorization Act that added \$47 billion to President Joe Biden’s proposal. The measure, which heads to the House Armed Services Committee next week, includes funding for submarines manufactured by General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton and Quonset Point, Rhode Island, helicopters made by Lockheed Martin Corp.’s Sikorsky Aircraft in Stratford and fighter jet engines made by Pratt & Whitney.

“They are at the core of our commitment to national defense in a deeply dangerous world,” said

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., and a member of the committee.

Critics denounced the size of the measure and the spending additions by senators to Biden’s request.

Robert Weissman, president of Public Citizen, said the committee’s decision to “defy both the president and public opinion and flood the Pentagon with more money is outrageous.”

“Most Americans oppose efforts to rocket-launch military spending towards a trillion dollars per year,” he said. “Lawmakers should reject this and champion human-centered spending instead.”

Included in the measure, which also would benefit thousands of small manufacturers in a broad supply chain in Connecticut and around the country, are:

- \$5.8 billion for design and construction of the next-generation Columbia class ballistic missile submarine, including \$531 million for submarine industrial base workforce development, and \$130 million for supplier development.
- \$4.5 billion to fully fund two Virginia Class submarines and \$2 billion for future submarines.
- \$1.04 billion in acoustic,

communication and support equipment for advanced combat control and undersea warfare capabilities.

- \$1.9 billion for 12 CH-53K King Stallion Helicopters. It includes \$250 million over Biden’s budget for two additional heavy-lift helicopters.
- \$1.1 billion for 20 HH-60W combat rescue helicopters, including \$350 million over Biden’s budget for an additional 10 HH-60Ws.
- \$650.4 million to fund 25 UH-60M Black Hawk Helicopters
- \$178.6 million to fund 28 UH-60L and UH-60V Black Hawk Helicopters
- \$7.9 billion for 68 F-35 Joint Strike Fighters across the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps, including \$858 million above Biden’s budget for seven additional F-35As.
- \$1 billion in F-35 advance procurement funding. The plane is made by Lockheed Martin and the engine is manufactured by East Hartford-based Pratt & Whitney, a subsidiary of Raytheon Technologies Corp.

Blumenthal said he secured a provision requiring an assessment of F-35 engine modernization efforts. The Department of



The National Defense Authorization Act approved by the Senate Armed Services Committee gives \$1.9 billion for 12 CH-53K King Stallion heavy lift helicopters. **STEPHEN SINGER/HARTFORD COURANT**

Defense has faced criticism from several members of Congress and the U.S. Government Accountability Office for failing to meet its targets for mission capable rates, a measure of the readiness of an aircraft fleet, or its reliability and maintainability metrics.

The National Defense Authorization Act also directs a cost bene-

fit analysis of domestic titanium production to encourage public and private sector cooperation in establishing titanium production in the United States, “vital to long-term security of strategic supply chains,” Blumenthal said.

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At Real Art Ways, a quiet celebration of a new beginning

Dreamy dance and art installation ‘And All Things Hushed’ marks building purchase and expansion

By Christopher Arnott
Hartford Courant

A meditative modern dance piece and an open-ended visual-art installation will mark a new beginning for Real Art Ways.

The cinema and arts complex has purchased the entire old Underwood typewriter factory building at 56 Arbor St., where it has leased limited space since 1989. From June 17 to 25, to mark the purchase and expansion creatively, the multimedia performance piece “And All Things Hushed” is letting audiences into previously unexplored parts of the building while also taking full advantage of RAW’s existing gallery and performance area.

Besides Real Art Ways’ longtime space at the back of the building, 56 Arbor Street houses lawyers’ offices, studio spaces, Jumping Frog Books, the Hartford Preservation Alliance and other tenants. Those tenants will remain, but there are unused areas of the building that will be added to the Real Art Ways complex.

“And All Things Hushed” is a celebration, but not a noisy one, more in the spirit of the calmer foreign films RAW screens and the large detailed artworks that fill its large galleries. RAW holds regular Creative Cocktail Hours and other parties, but this is not one of them.

Inspired by Rainer Maria Rilke’s 1922 poetry collection “Sonnets to Orpheus,” “And All Things Hushed” is a leisurely, contemplative piece that lets you see Real Art Ways from whole new perspec-

tives.

“And All Things Hushed” was conceived by Peter Kyle, a Hartford-based choreographer who has brought in numerous local performers, artists, designers and filmmakers to realize the concept of “moment to moment living” he finds in Rilke’s work.

He describes the result as “language married with the experience of physicality. I see music and dance as thinking. It’s all part of a larger physical system.”

“I’ve never done anything this elaborate before,” says Kyle, who lives in Bloomfield and teaches at Trinity College. “I wanted to create a piece with a traveling component.”

When he initially proposed doing a multimedia work at Real Art Ways, he presumed that he could use all three adjacent gallery spaces at the end of RAW’s lobby area. Executive director Will K. Wilkins told Kyle that two of the gallery spaces were already scheduled for exhibits but suggested that he look at unused areas of the building. Kyle embraced this offer, calling it “a whole new possibility.”

“And All Things Hushed” has two parts, the first setting the mood for the second.

Part 1 is an art installation with live performance elements, staged in and around a couple of reopened areas in the building.

In these corridors and rooms there are live performers engaged in quiet activities. There’s digital art and visual art and a soft soundscape. There are holes to look through, but most of the views do



“And All Things Hushed,” a multimedia performance at Real Art Ways, is running through June 25. **RJ LARUSSA/COURTESY**

IF YOU GO: “And All Things Hushed” runs June 17 to 25 at Real Art Ways, 56 Arbor Street, Hartford. There are seven evening performances: Friday, Saturday and June 23-25 at 7 p.m., with afternoon shows on Saturday and June 25 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20, \$18 members, \$12 students. realartways.org.

not involve a tight focus.

There is text painted on the walls, backwards, which can be read forwards thanks to a mirrored wall. Holes in otherwise blackened windows allow viewers to see a dance performance on the lawn outside. The installation experience is mostly self-guided. When audiences have spent 35 or 40 minutes in the space, they are gently ushered around the building to the main Real Art Ways space for the dance.

Near where you exit the main space, there’s a place to sit and look at a copy of “Sonnets to Orpheus,” the Stephen Mitchell translation from 1985. The book provides a

transition from the installation to the performance.

Part 2 begins with readings of three sonnets, then opens up to a full modern dance performance in the large gallery area where RAW usually holds its live performances and lectures.

Kyle calls the first section “an opportunity to invite audiences to tune in to their sensations. We are priming them to sit down to watch the dance.”

The backdrop of the dance is a mesmerizing effect by visual artist Christine Sciuilli, projecting fine lighting on soft netting to create a cloud- or smoke-like image. The performance area is otherwise very dark.

The performers include professional dancers Kyleigh Olivier, Marielis Garcia, Yueh-Ching Chung and Holley Farmer and several students from the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts: Kamryn DeAngelis, Lexi DeLisle and Grace Zommer. They each bring different styles, paces and attitudes to the performance.

When a new dancer enters the space, the others are often lying immobile on the ground.

As a choreographer, Kyle appreciates the horizontal possibilities of movement as well the vertical. He prizes stillness as much as movement. The performance is slow, methodical, contemplative and philosophical, in keeping with Rilke’s themes of the interconnectedness of art and life.

Local filmmaker R.J. LaRussa was charged with doing the lighting design and videography for “And All Things Hushed.” That meant constructing lighting grids above the dance space and hanging lights in odd corners of corridors and large open rooms.

“We basically built a theater out of nothing,” he says.

His RAW project is “pushing me in new directions,” Kyle says. The “And All Things Hushed” project, in turn, is opening up new areas for Real Art Ways.

Christopher Arnott can be reached at carnett@courant.com.

Government OT spending is nearly \$207M so far this year

By Keith M. Phaneuf
CT Mirror

While Connecticut’s government overtime costs rose considerably this fiscal year as state employees retired in large numbers, overall payroll is way down from one decade ago.

A new report from the legislature’s nonpartisan Office of Fiscal Analysis found General Fund overtime spending of most state agencies went up \$20.4 million, or about 11%, during the first three-quarters of this fiscal year, which began last July 1.

Total overtime spending approached \$207 million.

OFA totals include all three branches of government and most higher education units but exclude the University of Connecticut’s main campus in Storrs and most of its satellite campuses, which use a different human resource/payroll system from the rest of state government.

But according to Gov. Ned Lamont’s budget agency, the Office of Policy and Management, overall compensation in all areas covered in the OFA report — including salaries, overtime bonuses and paid leave — are projected to total \$2.85 billion this fiscal year, which ends June 30.

That’s 16% less than the \$3.4 billion annual payroll from one decade ago, once the \$2.7 billion price tag from 2012 is adjusted for inflation using the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics inflation calculator.

State employee labor unions have argued for years that excessive vacancies in many agencies and departments have created cost-inefficient situations.

“Not only does failing to refill vacancies mean that the critical public services our 3.6 million residents rely on become less accessible, but it also means that the cost to taxpayers increases — meaning we’re paying more for less,” said Drew Stoner, spokeswoman for the State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition. “It’s time to seriously address this staffing crisis.”

According to data obtained by the CT Mirror from the state Office of Policy and Management in late April, all Executive Branch agencies — excluding public colleges and universities — had collectively filled 25,700 of the 30,080 positions authorized for them in the state budget.

The 17% vacancy rate is almost double where it stood two years ago, when 9.4% of jobs were empty.

The staffing levels stem largely from two factors.

More than 4,330 state employees have retired since Jan. 1 or filed their written intention to do so, according to data released Wednesday from Comptroller Natalie Braswell’s office.

That’s nearly double the number of retirements state government has faced annually between 2019 and 2021.

Many senior workers are rushing to get out the door before July 1. That’s when more stringent limits on pension and other retirement benefits tied to a 2017 union concessions deal take effect.

The second factor behind the reduced staffing levels goes back farther in time.

Between 2011 and 2018, the legislature and then-Gov. Dannel P. Malloy relied chiefly on attrition to shrink the Executive Branch workforce by about 10% to help close several budget deficits.

More than 90% of the state’s overtime spending in each of the past two fiscal years has been dominated by agencies that unions frequently have complained are particularly understaffed.

The Department of Correction led all state agencies with almost \$73 million in overtime spending through the first three quarters of this fiscal year, followed by Mental

Health & Addiction Services with \$41.1 million and Developmental Services with \$32.9 million.

The unions aren’t the only ones expressing concern about staffing levels.

Sen. Cathy Osten, D-Sprague, co-chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee, said that while she’s uncertain staffing levels have reached a “crisis” stage as labor asserts, the nearly decade-long downsizing of the 2010s coupled with the recent retirement surge “has had a dramatic impact on things. There is a need to have more people.”

Osten and her fellow co-chair on appropriations, Rep. Toni E. Walker, D-New Haven, crafted policy language in the new state budget — which begins July 1 — to encourage hiring.

The legislature routinely orders the governor to find millions of dollars in savings once the fiscal year is underway, and the Executive Branch usually relies on freezing a portion of vacant jobs to fulfill that mandate.

The new budget — at first glance — is no different, setting a savings target of \$140 million.

But the legislature added language that specifically prohibits the Lamont administration

from withholding funds from any departmental budget to achieve that savings, as long as state finances remain in the black.

And given that the new budget was crafted with a built-in surplus of almost \$300 million, equal to a little more than 1.3% of the General Fund, lawmakers are optimistic no agency budget will need to be reduced.

Lamont also has said he hopes to slow the retirement surge by providing bonuses this spring and summer to state workers.

New wage agreements negotiated with most bargaining units last spring and ratified by the legislature in late April granted \$2,500 bonuses to full-time workers in mid-May.

A second bonus of \$1,000 will be paid out in mid-July. Part-timers are eligible to receive prorated bonuses.

But this provision has sparked controversy among Republicans, who argue it was a political stunt by the Democratic governor to help his labor base as he runs for reelection this year. That’s because the deal allows employees to accept the mid-May bonus and still retire before July 1.

Keith M. Phaneuf is a reporter for The Connecticut Mirror (<https://ctmirror.org/>).

Hartford Courant

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Property of the Week
SUNDAYS IN CTHOME & Real Estate

Hartford Courant

PUBLIC NOTICES

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:

50 Olesen Rd
Wethersfield CT 06109
860-266-3184

Auction Date- June 22, 2022 1:00 PM

4134 Wendell Chantry House goods
8184 Giovannie Lopez House goods
6310 Joseph Barbosa House goods
4414A Ernest Hamrick House goods

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage-treasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

6/17/2022 7230683

Please take notice, **Global Self Storage** of 265 W. High St East Hampton CT 06424, intends to have an auction of the goods stored in the following units in default for non-payment of rent.

Unit S2710x23: R. Carlson \$1,759
Unit S76 10x10: R. Carlson \$1,102.97
Unit S55 10x15: R. Dunn \$756.40

This sale will be held as an online auction at www.StorageTreasures.com on Monday June 13th 2022 for Unit S55 at 8:00am, Thursday June 23rd 2022 for Both Units S27 & S76 9:00am.

June 10 and June 17, 2022 7228268

LEGAL NOTICE
BRISTOL, CT
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

Notice is hereby given that at the June 14, 2022 City Council meeting amendments to the Bristol Code of Ordinances were adopted as follows, effective July 1, 2022:

- Sec. 2-15, Flag flying policy – To create a flag policy for the City of Bristol.

News publication of the complete text of the Ordinance are dispensed with due to its length. Copies are available for public distribution at the City Clerk's Office during office hours.

ATTEST:
Theresa Pac
Town and City Clerk
6/17 & 6/21/22 7233133

Request for Proposals 2P22-098
Design of Streetscape Improvements on North Main Street

The City of Bristol ("the City") is seeking to make streetscape improvements along North Main Street in Bristol, and is accepting proposals from qualified engineering firms toward the development of a design template, construction documents and subsequent construction administration efforts for the completion of such improvements.

Proposal submission documents are available at no charge by downloading from the City of Bristol web site via the following link:
<https://www.bristolct.gov/Bids.aspx?BidID=1133>

A non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held on June 29, 2022 at 2:30 pm in the City Hall West Meeting Room 1 within Bristol City Hall West, located at 131 North Main Street, Second Floor, Bristol CT 06010.

Proposal submissions will be accepted by the Purchasing Department until July 11, 2022 at 1:30 pm; submissions received after this date and time will not be considered. The City reserves the right to waive any informalities in any submission, to reject any and/or all submissions, and to accept the proposal that in its judgment is in its best interest. Interested firms are required to submit one original copy via digital media of the proposal to the Purchasing Department no later than the date and time noted above. Submissions may be made via email, shared file service, or USB drive; the City does not assume responsibility for failure of submissions to be received by the City by the date and time noted above.

The awarded firm will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, color, religion, gender, or national origin.

Roger D. Rousseau, Purchasing Agent
City of Bristol Purchasing Department
111 North Main Street
Bristol CT 06010
Tel. (860) 584-6195
Email rogerrousseau@bristolct.gov
<http://www.bristolct.gov/bids>
June 17, 2022 7233280

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Jane H. Dunn, Late of Clinton, AKA Jane Healy Dunn (22-0372)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated June 14, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Jacqueline Craco, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
William G. Dunn
c/o ADRIAN L. JOHNSON, ADRIAN L. JOHNSON, 34 LONG HILL RD., PO. BOX 378, CLINTON, CT 06413

NOTICE CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Kathleen Stakey (22-0358)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated June 14, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Rosemary L. Nolin, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Robert Stakey, Jr., 21 Bogue Lane, East Haddam, CT 06423
Joleen Uhlig, 5 Skyline Dr., Salem, CT 06420

June 17, 2022 7233192

Request for Proposals 2P22-095
Design of Improvements to Storm Water Drainage at Brace Avenue

The City of Bristol ("the City") is seeking a qualified firm to prepare construction documents toward installation of improvements of storm water drainage at Brace Avenue.

Proposal submission documents are available at no charge by downloading from the City of Bristol web site via the following link:
<https://www.bristolct.gov/Bids.aspx?BidID=1130>

A non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held on June 28, 2022 at 3:00 pm in the City Hall West Meeting Room 1 within Bristol City Hall West, located at 131 North Main Street, Second Floor, Bristol CT 06010.

Proposal submissions will be accepted by the Purchasing Department until July 8, 2022 at 1:00 pm; submissions received after this date and time will not be considered. The City reserves the right to waive any informalities in any submission, to reject any and/or all submissions, and to accept the proposal that in its judgment is in its best interest. Interested firms are required to submit one original copy via digital media of the proposal to the Purchasing Department no later than the date and time noted above. Submissions may be made via email, shared file service, or USB drive; the City does not assume responsibility for failure of submissions to be received by the City by the date and time noted above.

The awarded firm will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, color, religion, gender, or national origin.

Roger D. Rousseau, Purchasing Agent
City of Bristol Purchasing Department
111 North Main Street
Bristol CT 06010
Tel. (860) 584-6195
Email rogerrousseau@bristolct.gov
<http://www.bristolct.gov/bids>
June 17, 2022 7233262

LEGAL NOTICE TO ALL DOG OWNERS

According to Connecticut General Statute 22-238, you are required to license your dog(s) in the month of June. The fee for licensing shall be \$8.00 for spayed/neutered dogs and \$19.00 for unspayed/neutered dogs.

Dog licenses may be renewed by mail. Information required, address, phone number, name of dog, breed, age/birthdate, color, and enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. You are also required to provide a copy of proof of current rabies vaccination and proof of neutering/spaying, when licensing your dog(s). YOU MUST PROVIDE AN UPDATED COPY OF THE DOG'S RABIES VACCINATION CERTIFICATE. WE WILL NOT CONTACT YOUR VETERINARIAN FOR YOU.

Dog licenses will be issued strictly through the mail, please make checks payable to the Town Clerk and mail to: Town Clerk's Office
245 Dekoven Drive, Room 110
Middletown, CT 06457-1300

The period for licensing your dog(s) is June 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022. After this date, you will be penalized \$1.00 per month for each month that you fail to license your dog(s).

Dated this 1st day of June 2022.

ATTEST:
Ashley Flynn-Natale
City and Town Clerk
City of Middletown
6/3, 6/17/2022 7224953

Request for Proposals 2P22-096
Design of Streetscape Improvements on Riverside Avenue & Park Street

The City of Bristol ("the City") is seeking to make streetscape improvements along the Riverside Avenue and Park Street sections of State Route 72 in Bristol, and is accepting proposals from qualified engineering firms toward the development of a design template, construction documents and subsequent construction administration efforts for the completion of such improvements.

Proposal submission documents are available at no charge by downloading from the City of Bristol web site via the following link:
<https://www.bristolct.gov/Bids.aspx?BidID=1132>

A non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held on June 29, 2022 at 2:00 pm in the City Hall West Meeting Room 1 within Bristol City Hall West, located at 131 North Main Street, Second Floor, Bristol CT 06010.

Proposal submissions will be accepted by the Purchasing Department until July 11, 2022 at 1:00 pm; submissions received after this date and time will not be considered. The City reserves the right to waive any informalities in any submission, to reject any and/or all submissions, and to accept the proposal that in its judgment is in its best interest. Interested firms are required to submit one original copy via digital media of the proposal to the Purchasing Department no later than the date and time noted above. Submissions may be made via email, shared file service, or USB drive; the City does not assume responsibility for failure of submissions to be received by the City by the date and time noted above.

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Roger D. Rousseau, Purchasing Agent
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111 North Main Street
Bristol CT 06010
Tel. (860) 584-6195
Email rogerrousseau@bristolct.gov
<http://www.bristolct.gov/bids>
June 17, 2022 7233270



10 THINGS

YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT NEARLY EVERYTHING

A Collection of Fascinating Historical, Scientific and Cultural Trivia about PEOPLE, PLACES and THINGS

MARK JACOB & STEPHAN BENZKOEFER
Chicago Tribune

FACT #341

The folks who brought us Reddi-wip whipped cream had another brainstorm in the 1960s: Reddi-Bacon.



10 Things You Might Not Know About Nearly Everything

contains a plethora of tidbits and trivia that will appeal to everyone, from history buffs to sports fans to foodies. From lighthearted topics such as misspellings and extreme eating, to serious subjects such as WWII and prison, this book leaves readers brighter and wittier than ever before.

FACT #84: A cardigan worn by a man is sometimes called a mandigan.

FACT #178 : Genuophobia is the fear of knees.

FACT #238: Actress Marilyn Monroe colored her hair using a shade of blond called dirty pillow slip.

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Tribune Publishing Company

‘OFFICIAL COMPETITION’ ★★★ ½

Banderas, Cruz star in sharp satire of film industry

By Katie Walsh
Tribune News Service

In “Official Competition,” Argentinian directors Gaston Duprat and Mariano Cohn — with their longtime collaborator, screenwriter Andres Duprat — send up film culture in this tragicomic dissection of the artist’s ways. Legendary Spanish stars Penelope Cruz and Antonio Banderas team up with Duprat, Cohn and Argentinian star Oscar Martinez to embody the different strains of pretentiousness that permeate the film industry, and the combustion that happens when all three are thrown together in a high-pressure situation.

This moviemaking satire starts with the money, of course. Pharmaceutical mogul Humberto Suarez (Jose Luis Gomez) turns 80 and starts to look back on his legacy, considering what to put his name on. Not a building, not a bridge, but a movie, a good one. So he hires a critically acclaimed filmmaker, Lola Cuevas (Cruz), and buys the rights to a Nobel Prize-winning novel titled “Rivalry,” though he’s unfamiliar with both Lola’s work and the contents of the book. Nevertheless, he installs her in his empty charity foundation building, a labyrinth of brutal modern architecture.

Lola pairs a prestigious, well-respected actor and acting teacher, Ivan Torres (Martinez) with one of the country’s biggest stars, Felix Rivero (Banderas), pitting them against each other in a loose adaptation of the novel about a lifelong rivalry between two brothers. She’s scheduled nine days of closed



Antonio Banderas and Penelope Cruz in the moviemaking satire “Official Competition.” MANOLO PAVON/IFC FILMS

rehearsal, during which she subjects Ivan and Felix to an increasingly absurd series of “exercises” intended to “transform” them, hoping to break down their egos. Lola’s ironic, artsy pretentiousness rubs up against Ivan’s super serious reverence for his craft, which then clashes with Felix’s diva behavior. It’s unclear who will make it out of this situation intact, but what a joy it is to watch an outlandishly wigged Cruz torture these two men, as the three

squabble and manipulate while searching for a scrap of artistic transcendence. “Official Competition” makes a statement about the state of the film industry, with deep-pocketed investors looking for something that’s “the best” without having any clue about what that actually means. Lola takes down that notion, separating the ideas of “quality” and “likability.” But she’s also an empathetic person, and despite her arch persona, she feels

deeply for her collaborators, despite, or perhaps because of, the intimate artistic roller coaster she has constructed for them. The building itself becomes a character in the film, captured in thoughtful compositions by cinematographer Arnau Valls Colomer. The filmmakers utilize depth of field beautifully. It’s almost as if the space itself drives their madness and plays a key role in some of the film’s dramatic turns.

The plot follows the meta-rivalry between the two men, but at the heart of the smart and spiky “Official Competition” is the question of what makes art “good,” as well as the futility of applying such a banal label to something that can be moving or challenging. Ultimately, the film asserts that “the best” might be something rather soulless, even dangerous. This epiphany rocks Lola, and should make the audience question the value

of putting art, and artists, in competition with each other, a lesson to take to heart every year when awards season rolls around, though this one will likely be in contention, and perhaps even in competition.

In Spanish with English subtitles
MPAA rating: R (for language and some nudity)
Running time: 1:54
How to watch: In theaters June 17

CELEBRITIES

Beyonce to drop new album in July

From news services

Beyonce has revealed the title and release date for her next studio album, with the 16-track “Renaissance” set to drop July 29.

The superstar began listing the music and products on her website Thursday and several streaming services, including Tidal and Spotify, also announced the release.

Beyonce tipped off fans that something important was coming when she removed her profile photos across all her social media platforms last week.

“Renaissance” would be the follow-up to 2016’s “Lemonade,” but the artist has been hard at work of late, featured on rapper Megan Thee Stallion’s remix of “Savage” and opening the 2022 Academy Awards with a performance of her song “Be Alive,” from the film “King Richard.” In 2019, she curated and produced the soundtrack album “The Lion King: The Gift,” for the live-action remake of “The Lion King.”

Mo’Nique, Netflix settle suit: Mo’Nique and Netflix reportedly have settled her lawsuit that accused the streaming service of racial and sexual discrimination for allegedly making her a lowball offer for a proposed comedy special. The matter has been “amicably resolved,” Michael Parks, an attorney representing Mo’Nique in the suit, told The Hollywood Reporter.

The terms of the settlement weren’t disclosed Wednesday, when the streaming giant and the comedian and Oscar-winning actor jointly filed in a Los Angeles federal court for the case’s dismissal.

Mo’Nique’s lawsuit said Netflix officials offered her \$500,000 in early 2018 for a comedy special and refused to negotiate further. Her suit said



Beyonce has announced her next studio album will be the 16-track “Renaissance.” CHRIS PIZZELO/AP 2021

that reflected a company tendency to underpay Black women. In contrast, the suit claimed, Netflix was willing to negotiate with other comics and made deals reportedly worth tens of millions of dollars for comedy specials from Chris Rock, Ellen DeGeneres, Dave Chapelle and Ricky Gervais.

Netflix denied the main allegations of the suit, filed in November 2019, in a statement at that time.

Patterson apologizes for comments: James Patterson is apologizing for saying that white male writers are being subjected to “just another form of racism,” comments the bestselling author made during an interview with The Sunday Times in London.

Facing widespread criticism on social media, Patterson tweeted this week that “I absolutely do not believe that racism is practiced against white writers. Please know that I

strongly support a diversity of voices being heard — in literature, in Hollywood, everywhere.”

Patterson told the Times in a story that ran last weekend that he worried that white men were having difficulties finding work in film and publishing, calling it “just another form of racism.”

“Can you get a job?” he wondered. “Yes. Is it harder? Yes. It’s even harder for older writers.”

Patterson, 75, has published multiple best-sellers each year and is ranked as among the world’s richest writers.

June 17 birthdays: Actor Peter Lupus is 90. Singer Barry Manilow is 79. Comedian Joe Piscopo is 71. Actor Mark Linn-Baker is 68. Director Bobby Farrelly is 64. Actor Greg Kinnear is 59. Actor Will Forte is 52. Actor Jodie Whittaker is 40. Singer Mickey Guyton is 39. Rapper Kendrick Lamar is 35.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com [Twitter@askingamy](https://twitter.com/askingamy)

Woman ignored by fiance’s father asks why?

Dear Amy: I am 35; my “fiance” is 40. We have been engaged for 11 years. I am wondering why his father has not made any attempt to make me feel welcome, even after so many years of us being together.

Almost every weekend, his father comes over and picks up my fiance. They then go back to his dad’s house to hang out for the majority of the day.

Even the simplest greetings are met with blank stares. He completely ignores my presence!

Amy, I can’t even get a “hello” out of the man.

My partner always says, “Just give him time.”

My family has gone out of their way to make my partner feel welcome, because they know that I love him, and he is a part of my life.

I just don’t understand why he hasn’t done anything to remedy the situation. Or why I have not gotten a valid reason for his father’s choice to completely alienate me, even though he welcomed in his brother’s psycho girlfriend into their lives with open arms. Am I wrong for wanting to be accepted by his family?

— Left Out Woman

Dear Left Out: You aren’t wrong to want acceptance from your partner’s family — or anyone.

However — you and your “fiance” (to use your quote marks) are extremely passive in your response to it.

Your 11-year engagement might be a clue that you two are extremely similar when it comes to your passivity (and patience). Being similar does

not mean you are well-matched, however.

“Give him time” is an elastic concept to your man. Glaciers have melted faster than he seems to move.

This problem should call up larger questions for you: If this man has been rude to you for over a decade, why haven’t you called him on it? And why hasn’t your guy?

Also — would you spend part of every weekend hanging out with someone who was mean to the person you loved — even if your hang-buddy was your parent?

As passive and patient as you have been, this might be the moment for you to say, “time’s up.”

Dear Amy: My older brother is getting married this summer, his second marriage. He practices a very conservative Christian belief and told me that because I am a gay man I am a sinner and will go to hell in the afterlife. His children told me that they pray for my salvation.

For my entire youth, he abused and tortured me physically, emotionally and sexually.

We are both in our 60s now and have had very little contact.

I don’t want to go to his wedding, however, my mother is putting a lot of pressure on me to go.

The thought of going to the wedding makes me anxious and angry.

I don’t want to see him or his family, but I feel guilty not supporting my mother. What should I do?

— Confused Brother

Dear Confused: Do not give in to your mother’s

pressure. Understand with compassion that she may be hoping to heal the rift between you and your brother, but, unless she has also urged your brother to atone for his behavior and ask for forgiveness, any contact should be up to you.

Stay calm and offer to help your mother by asking a friend or family member to accompany her.

Dear Amy: I was a bit disturbed by your advice to “Accused of Desertion,” who decided to fly home alone after their partner tested positive for COVID-19. What I think was missed entirely is the fact that a close contact of someone who is COVID-19 positive — even if they themselves have had a negative test — may still be infected and putting others at risk by getting on a flight.

I know that public health guidance has been confusing, but the current CDC guidance is to defer travel for at least five days after last contact with the infected person, and test at that time.

I would implore anyone who is unable or unwilling to isolate or quarantine at their destination to rethink air travel for now.

— An Exhausted Physician

Dear Exhausted: Thank you for the clarification and advice. And thank you for the hard work trying to keep people healthy and safe.

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‘LIGHTYEAR’ ★★ ½

Sci-fi story blends adult drama, kid adventure

By Katie Walsh
Tribune News Service

Disney has made big business mining content from content, with spinoffs and sequels and multiverses dancing through multiplexes and streaming apps. “Lightyear,” the latest Disney/Pixar animated film, has been extracted from the beloved “Toy Story” universe, but it’s a bit unique. It’s sort of a prequel, in that it’s intended to be Andy’s favorite movie, the one that spawned the Buzz Lightyear toy that took up residence in his room with Woody and the rest of his pals. So “Lightyear” is not about Buzz Lightyear, the toy, but about Buzz Lightyear, the character, and this satisfying animated sci-fi adventure is a good choice for Andy’s favorite flick.

Though Tim Allen originally voiced Buzz, Chris Evans has taken over vocal duties in “Lightyear,” and with Evans in the role, there’s more than a few times one will wish this was a live-action film. “Lightyear” — directed by Angus MacLane and written by MacLane, Matthew Aldrich, and Jason Headley — manages to strike an interesting tone between “adult drama” and “kiddie adventure,” with a serious sci-fi story that has been dusted with some good humor and the therapy-approved life lessons we’ve come to expect from Disney movies.

We meet the intrepid Space Ranger Buzz Lightyear on a dangerous mission to a mystery planet with his best friend and fellow Ranger Alisha Hawthorne (Uzo Aduba). When Buzz crashes the ship during a harrowing escape and maroons the team, he feels the guilt that comes with failure, and feels responsible for returning the team back home. He’s dedicated to finishing the mission, but as time passes, Buzz



Buzz Lightyear, voiced by Chris Evans, with his robot cat Sox in “Lightyear.” **DISNEY/PIXAR**

stubbornly refuses to accept their new reality and life passes him by.

Life passing is a bit more extreme for Buzz: Every time he tries to achieve hyper-speed during his test flights, years pass on the planet though it’s only minutes to him. His friends start families and grow older, while he’s stewing over fuel crystals with his disarming and loyal robot

cat, Sox (Peter Sohn). Stuck on his own solo heroics, Buzz has missed the boat on time, and the life that comes with it.

At the film’s core is a message about learning to ask for help, and the importance of working as a team rather than as an individual, as well as a reminder to slow down and think about the cost of rushing ahead as planned.

These lessons aren’t exactly subtle, pitched at a child’s understanding of the film’s morals, though the story itself is more mature and dramatic.

“Lightyear” pulls from classic sci-fi adventure tropes, and Buzz is cut from the same cloth as another summer action hero, Maverick, in “Top Gun: Maverick.” Both are solitary heroes who feel they alone

can achieve a mission, but learn they need to rely on others in order to get the job done.

“Lightyear” gets mired in a gray area between genres, and doesn’t necessarily soar like some of the other films that it references. The humor is muted, and it lacks the heartstring-tugging of the “Toy Story” movies from whose forehead it’s apparently sprung, fully

formed. Nevertheless, “Lightyear” is more charming than not. Just like the Buzz in “Toy Story,” the Buzz in “Lightyear” has a big, beating heart underneath that Space Ranger suit.

MPAA rating: PG (for action/peril)
Running time: 1:40
How to watch: In theaters June 17



Hayden Christensen as Darth Vader in the series “Obi-Wan Kenobi.” **LUCASFILM LTD./DISNEY+**

Christensen says returning as Darth Vader ‘quite a surprise’

By Peter Sblendorio
New York Daily News

Hayden Christensen thought he had taken his final breaths as Darth Vader.

The actor, who depicted Anakin Skywalker’s transformation to the villainous Vader in the “Star Wars” prequel movies, never expected to return to a galaxy far, far away — before reprising the role more than 15 years later in the new “Obi-Wan Kenobi” series on Disney+.

“I really thought that was kind of the end of my journey,” Christensen said. “I had an amazing experience working on the prequels and was so fortunate to get to be a part of those films, but when we finished, I thought that was it, so coming back was quite a surprise.”

“Obi-Wan Kenobi” is set 10 years after the final film in the prequel trilogy, 2005’s “Star Wars: Episode III — Revenge of the Sith,” which ended with Obi-Wan badly injuring Vader, his former apprentice, in a lightsaber duel.

Vader’s presence loomed large throughout the first four episodes of “Obi-Wan Kenobi” as he pursued the reclusive Jedi Master for revenge in a quest to

eradicate the remaining Jedi.

Christensen, 41, physically portrays Vader on the show, while James Earl Jones voices the character as he did in the original “Star Wars” films.

“It’s an exciting time period to explore that hasn’t really been explored before,” Christensen said. “Vader’s very consumed by all of these negative feelings and emotions and all of his anger that is fueling his dark-side abilities.”

Christensen says it felt “incredible” to put the Vader suit back on for “Obi-Wan Kenobi,” and found he was able to quickly tap back into the brooding character’s emotions.

“The preparation on this was pretty extensive. I did my character work, and just getting back into that mindset, but the physicality of the character has obviously changed so much,” Christensen said.

“That sort of required a lot of effort to, one, put on some size so I could fill out the suit a bit more and, two, just get the movement down,” he continued. “I got to put the suit on a little bit at the end of ‘Episode III,’ but I wasn’t moving around that much. It’s a different ballgame when

you’ve got to walk.”

Christensen debuted as the angst-filled Anakin in the 2002 movie “Star Wars: Episode II — Attack of the Clones” before diving deeper into the character’s dark journey in “Revenge of the Sith.”

The new series served as a reunion for Christensen and actor Ewan McGregor, who portrayed Obi-Wan in the prequel movies and now stars in and executive produces the show.

“The first time I saw Ewan on set, on my first day, and getting to reunite as these characters was a profoundly special moment,” Christensen said. “These characters and this franchise mean a lot to Ewan and I, and getting to step back into this world is just a big deal for both of us.”

“Obi-Wan Kenobi” is the third live-action “Star Wars” series on Disney+, following “The Mandalorian” and “The Book of Boba Fett.”

The finale of “Obi-Wan Kenobi” is set to arrive June 22. Christensen is excited for audiences to experience the full force of the series’ conclusion.

“I can’t say much,” Christensen said, “but I think we’re going to have a strong ending for sure.”

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): You get to be the leader of the pack today. Even if you’re normally more into going with the flow, you can make your agenda the one everyone wants to follow. You don’t have to be in charge every day, but you’ll certainly get a shot at it at this time.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Sometimes the easiest way to get somewhere is by not forcing anything. You’re prone to achieve right now, so focus on moving steadily as the tortoise rather than blazing forward as the hare. You’ll cross the finish line that much easier if you don’t tire yourself out along the way.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Someone might push you beyond your comfort zone, but they likely mean well. Your friends could be integral in this progress, so don’t think you have to go on any adventures alone. Even if you feel a bit of trepidation at first, you’ll probably quickly begin to enjoy the experience.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): This is a good day for pushing yourself a few rungs up the ladder, so you’re going to be deeply driven to achieve. If you feel like you can take on more, then consider having a conversation with a supervisor about doing just that. They’ll likely be quite impressed by your drive.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On June 17, 1885, the Statue of Liberty arrived in New York Harbor aboard the French ship Isere.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon’s eventual downfall began with the arrest

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You’ll likely want someone by your side as you venture forth today. The world is full of possibilities, but you have to go out and seek them. Think about taking this journey on as part of a pair rather than making it all by yourself. Find someone you can trust and form a powerful partnership that will benefit you both.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Playing by the rules is a good idea today. Your routine is already ruled by energy, meaning that there’s a lot to play for at the moment. Instead of trying to find loopholes, do everything by the book. Someone could inspect your methods when you least expect it.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A lovely day is likely ahead of you, making it a good time to enjoy life’s bounty. A close acquaintance of one kind or another could offer you a special opportunity to indulge in some fun excursions. At least consider accepting any invitations, because you won’t want to miss out.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Being careful will probably be more efficient than moving quickly today, lest you burn out in the process. If anyone tries to hurry you along, don’t hesitate to tell them that you’re on different schedules. It’s okay to prioritize self-care and conserving your energy.

of five burglars inside the Washington, D.C., Watergate complex.

In 1994, O.J. Simpson was arrested and charged with murder in the slayings of his ex-wife, Nicole, and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

In 2008, hundreds of same-sex couples got married across California on the first full day that gay marriage became legal.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Today could be one of the best days you’ve experienced in some time. This an ideal moment to connect with people. Hit the town for some fun activities — perhaps a karaoke bar where you can belt a power ballad. Anything where you can have a spotlight trained on you should be enjoyable.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your feelings could get the better of you today, especially if you feel like you’re not getting all you deserve. The smallest adjustment might set you off, but remember this transit is only temporary. It would be wise to refrain from blowing up over something transient.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): People mean well, even though they might be currently overdoing it, stirring up action and turning up the volume. If people come clamoring for your attention, it’s up to you whether or not to respond. That being said, it might be easier to let them have their way.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): You could feel like you’re constantly shifting gears at the moment. The speed will pick up, reminding you to earn the right to take it easy. Try not to get overwhelmed by the changing tides and do your best to go with the flow. You can take it easy and turn up the heat as necessary.

In 2015, nine people were shot to death in a historic African-American church in Charleston, South Carolina.

In 2019, Iran announced that it was breaking compliance with the international accord that kept it from making nuclear weapons. The Trump administration followed by ordering 1,000 more troops to the Middle East.

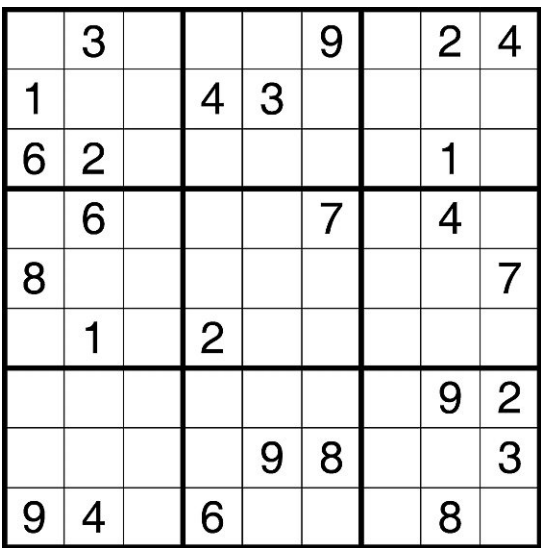
BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at [PlayJumble.com](https://www.playjumble.com)



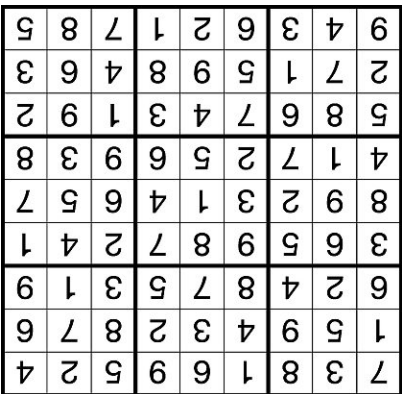
Scan QR code to play online.

SUDOKU



Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.



9/29/17

BOGGLE



By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE

- 3 letters = 1 point
- 4 letters = 2 points
- 5 letters = 3 points
- 6 letters = 4 points
- 7 letters = 5 points
- 8 letters = 6 points
- 9 letters = 10 points
- 10 letters = 15 points

YOUR BOGGLE RATING

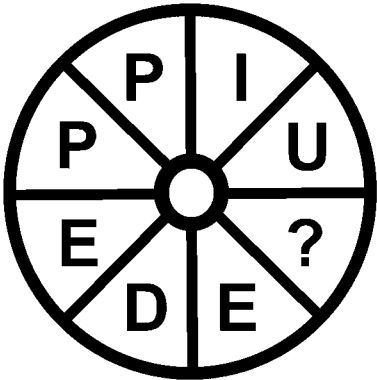
- 151+ = Champ
- 101-150 = Expert
- 61-100 = Pro
- 31-60 = Gamer
- 21-30 = Rookie
- 11-20 = Amateur
- 0-10 = Try again

Boggle BrainBusters Bonus
We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST FIVE MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION in the grid of letters.

BUS CAR BOAT PLANE TRAIN

WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

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WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: CARS

018

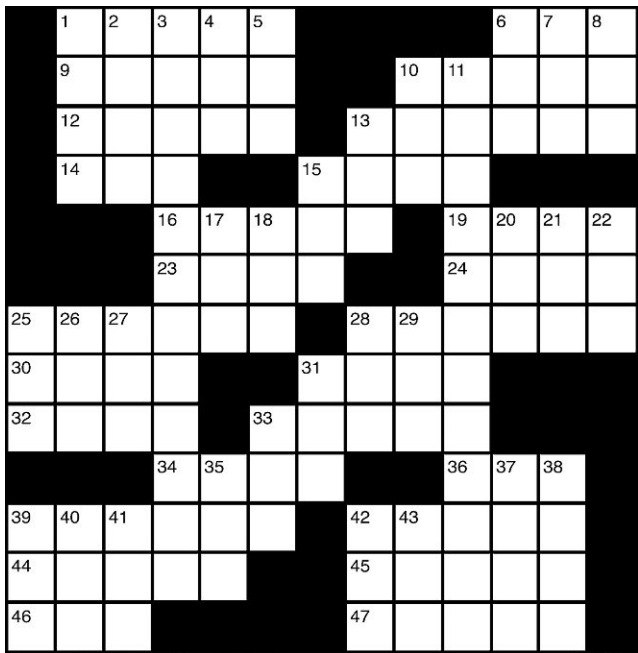
Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.



ALFA ROMEO	FERRARI	LAMBORGHINI	NISSAN
ASTON MARTIN	FIAT	LAND ROVER	PEUGEOT
AUDI	FORD	LEXUS	PORSCHE
BENTLEY	HONDA	LINCOLN	RENAULT
BMW	HUMMER	LOTUS	ROLLS-ROYCE
BUICK	HYUNDAI	MASERATI	SAAB
CADILLAC	ISUZU	MAZDA	SUBARU
CHEVROLET	JAGUAR	MERCEDES-BENZ	TOYOTA
CHRYSLER	JEEP	MINI	VOLKSWAGEN
DODGE	KIA	MITSUBISHI	VOLVO

TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/16/18

ACROSS

- 1 Role on "M*A*S*H"
- 6 "___ This Morning"
- 9 Up in arms
- 10 Rainbow ___; freshwater fish
- 12 Gave a monetary penalty to
- 13 "Blue ___"
- 14 Actor Hunter
- 15 Mediocre report card
- 16 Sportscaster ___ Rashad
- 19 "___ Plus 8"
- 23 "The Company You ___"; Robert Redford film
- 24 Cosmonaut ___ Gagarin
- 25 "___ Fences"
- 28 Mr. Gleason
- 30 Cartoon pooch
- 31 Rudolph of "Up All Night"
- 32 "The Days and Nights of Molly ___"
- 33 Fred of "Hunter"
- 34 Brenneman & Roloff
- 36 "Mayberry ___"
- 39 "One, two, buckle ___"

DOWN

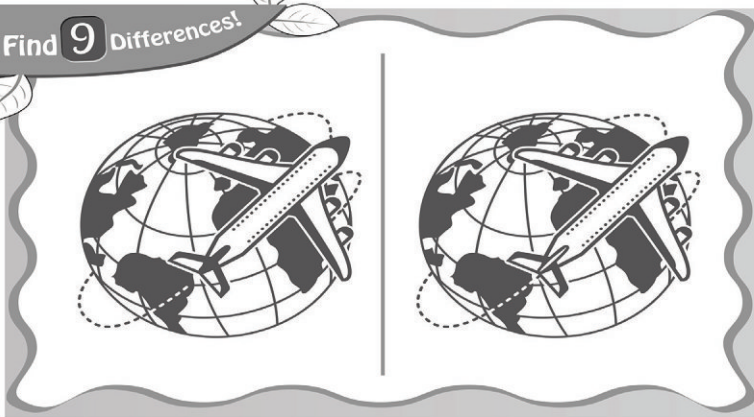
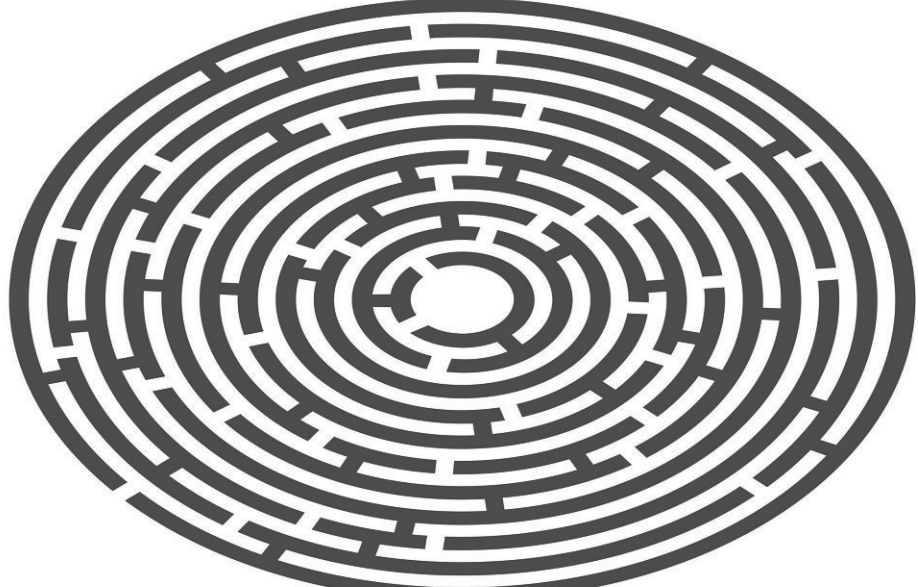
- 1 Fissure; split
- 2 Opera solo
- 3 Tim's portrayer on "Life in Pieces"
- 4 Gobbled up
- 5 "The ___ Skelton Hour"
- 6 Pigeon's sound
- 7 Son on "Father Knows Best"
- 8 Nov. 1 honorees
- 10 "The Little Couple" network
- 11 Actor on "NCIS"
- 13 A-E connection
- 15 Tam or beret
- 17 "___ Haw"
- 18 "How I ___ Your Mother"
- 20 Black-and-white diving bird
- 21 Prefix for cycle or angle
- 22 Start of the "Old MacDonald" refrain
- 25 Pea casing
- 26 Wedding words
- 27 "El ___"; Charlton Heston movie
- 28 Mr. Leno
- 29 Certain vote
- 31 "Scarecrow and ___ King"
- 33 Actor on "Touched by an Angel"
- 35 Matthew of "2 Broke Girls"
- 37 "Born ___"; film about a lioness
- 38 Laura or Bruce
- 39 "Cry ___ River"
- 40 Orangish potato
- 41 Mrs. in Madrid
- 42 "Murder, ___ Wrote"
- 43 Holbrook or Linden



9/23/18

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KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES

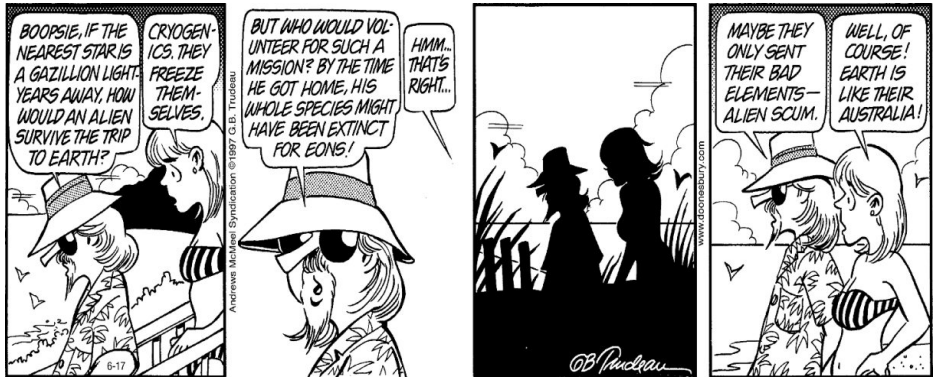


The right answer

Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



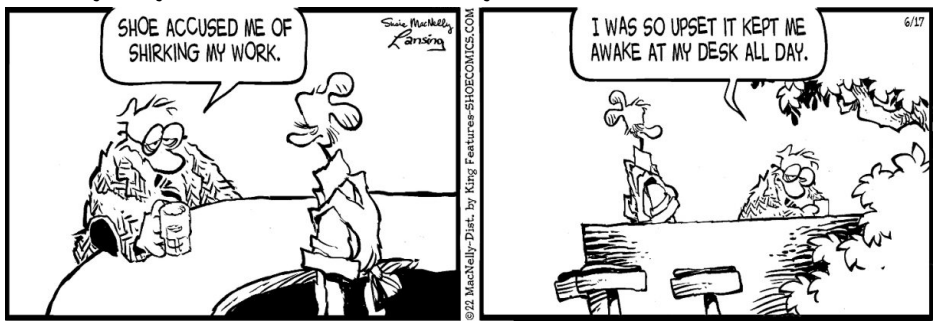
Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



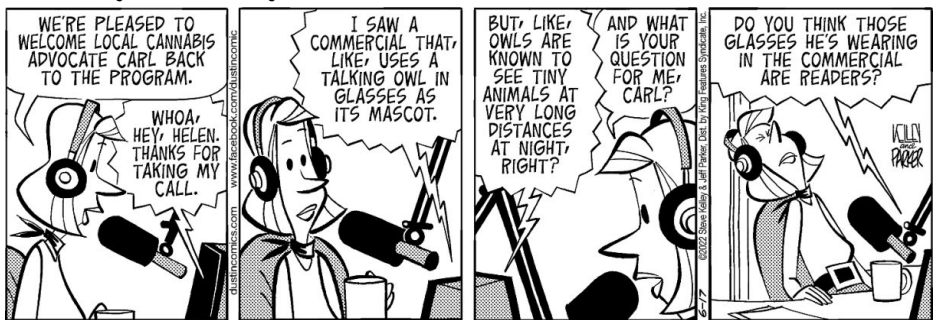
Garfield By Jim Davis



Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



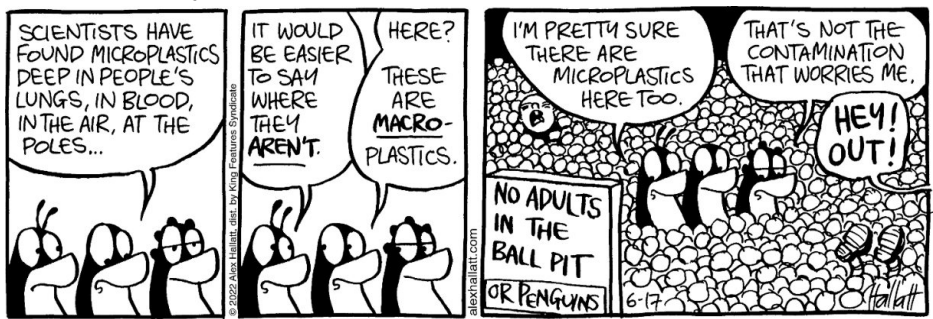
Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



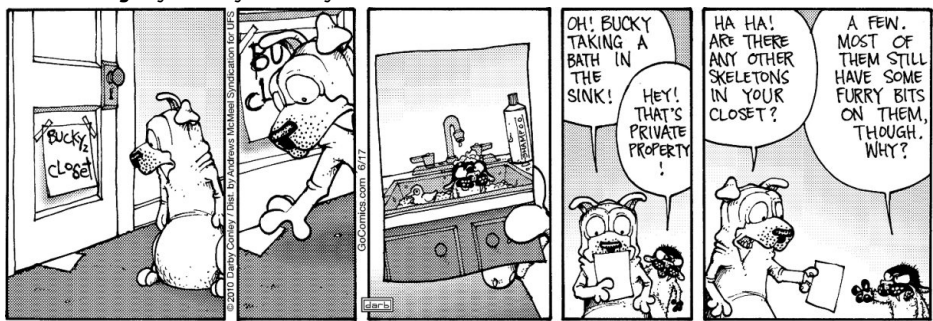
Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt



Jump Start By Robb Armstrong



Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley



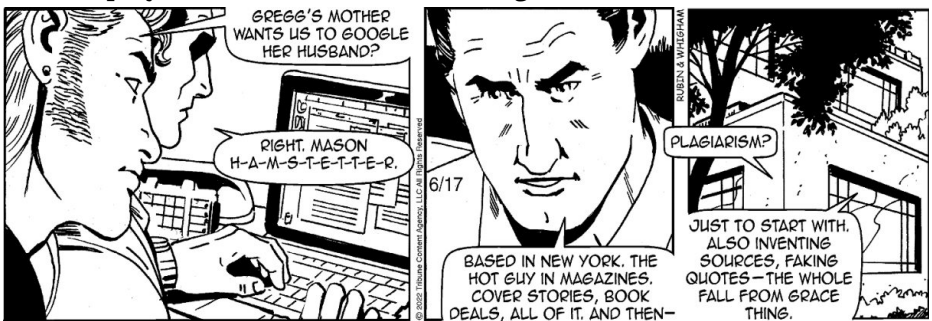
Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



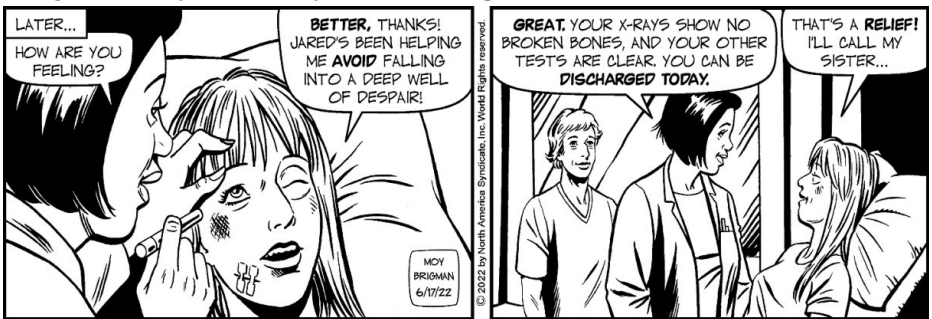
Dilbert By Scott Adams



Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin



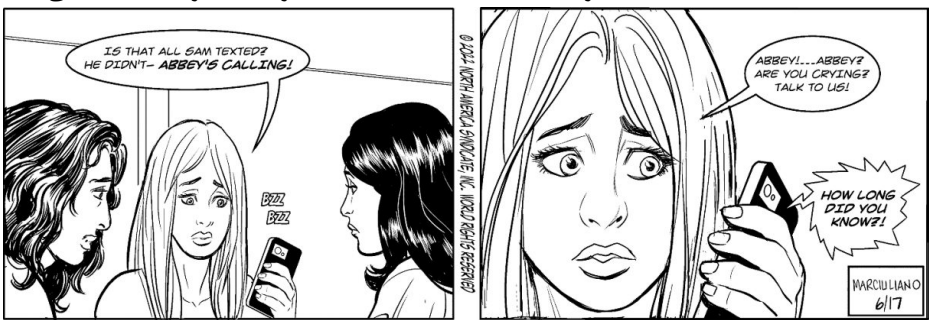
Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman



Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty



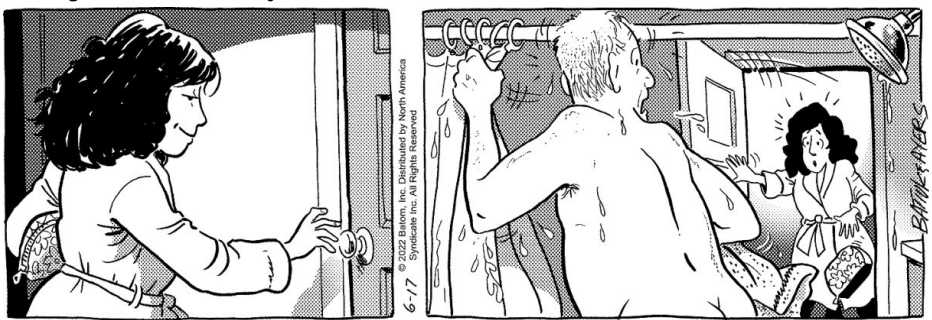
Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley



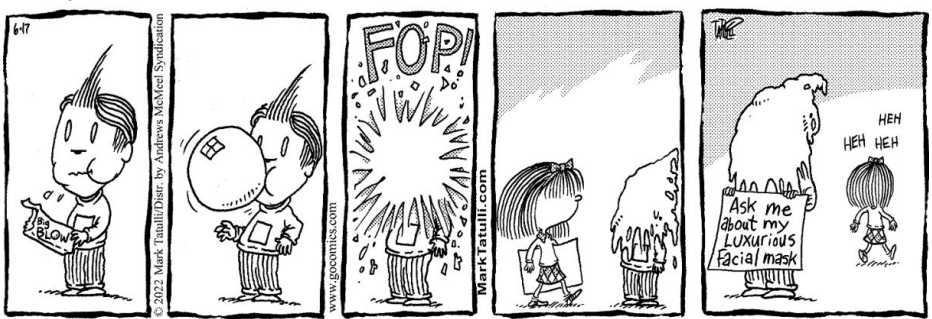
Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos



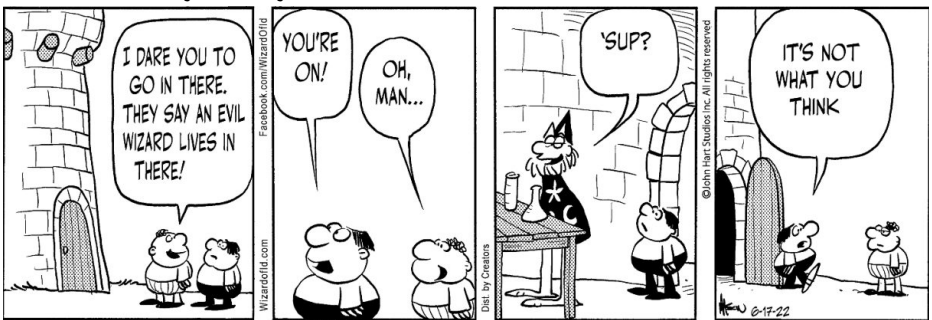
Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



Lio By Mark Tatulli



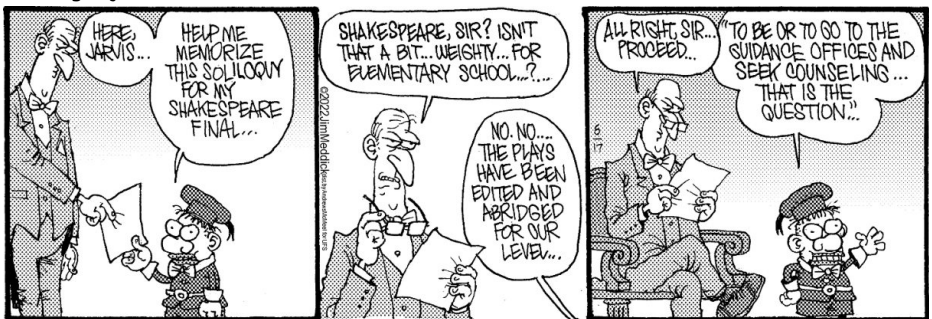
Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



Monty By Jim Meddick



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Hartford Courant

SPORTS

COURANT.COM / SPORTS

GOLF U.S. OPEN

McIlroy's play in first round speaks as loud as his voice

2011 champ one back after long week of talk surrounding LIV tour

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press

BROOKLINE, Mass. — Rory McIlroy made another bold statement at the U.S. Open. This time it was with his golf.

McIlroy has become a leading voice on the PGA Tour over the last few years, particularly with his rebuke of the Saudi-funded series that is disrupting golf. The opening round Thursday at The Country Club was a reminder he's pretty good at his day job, too.

And a few fiery moments showed how badly he wants to end

Turn to Open, Page 6

Leaderboard

Adam Hadwin	-4	66
Matthys Daffue	-3	67
Callum Tarren	-3	67
David Lingmerth	-3	67
Rory McIlroy	-3	67
Joel Dahmen	-3	67

■ Travelers celebrity pro-am to have a UConn flavor this year.
Page 6



Rory McIlroy reacts after making a putt for birdie during the opening round of the U.S. Open on Thursday at The Country Club near Boston. McIlroy, the 2011 tournament winner, shot a 3-under 67. **JARED C. TILTON/GETTY**

SUE BIRD TO RETIRE

"I've really deep down known for a while now. So then it just became, well alright when do you want to say it? I feel like I've played as long as I can at a really high level, both physically and mentally."

— Sue Bird



Sue Bird, who announced on Thursday she will be retiring after this WNBA season, will be remembered for many things during her career at UConn but perhaps none greater than a night in March 2001 when she buried a three-pointer to lift the Huskies past Notre Dame and to a Big East Tournament championship. **COURANT FILE**

A legend in every way

From Long Island to Storrs to Seattle, journey to sports icon has been epic



Lori Riley

I remember going to Sue Bird's house on Long Island right before she came to UConn.

We sat in the kitchen with her mom Nancy, who pointed out the tree Sue used to climb outside the kitchen window, the pictures of little Sue at track meets, the plaque she won for shooting free throws when she was 6 years old.

Nancy was effusive; Sue was a quiet teenager. As the point guard of the No. 1-ranked girls high school team in the country, Christ the King, Bird was well-known in

the high school and AAU circles in the New York City area, but in August of 1998 — long before social media existed — maybe not so much beyond that. Even during a trip to Gold's Gym on the Jericho Turnpike, where Bird worked out the day we visited, the man behind the counter wanted to know why myself and a photographer were there.

"Where is she going to school?" he asked us. "What does she play?"

I wrote then of that Class of 2002, the one that would end their time at UConn with an undefeated season and the program's third national title: "They will be besieged, scrutinized and adored by a legion of UConn basketball fans. Though they are from other

Turn to Riley, Page 4



Storm guard Sue Bird plays during the first half of a Commissioner's Cup game against the Sun, on Aug. 12, 2021, in Phoenix. **MATT YORK/AP**

ON A1

Dom Amore: Bird can leave game knowing her legacy is secured.

Former UConn star says this season will be her last in WNBA

By Lila Bromberg
Hartford Courant

Sue Bird had "an inkling" before the 2022 WNBA season started that this would be her last. The UConn women's basketball legend didn't want to announce anything just yet, though. She was grappling with the decision and had to be absolutely sure.

Bird contemplated things more as training camp and the season got underway. Until, eventually, she knew with certainty.

"I've really deep down known for a while now," the 41-year-old Bird said. "So then it just became, well alright when do you want to say it?"

Bird officially announced her retirement from professional

basketball on Thursday after 21 years with the Seattle Storm in the WNBA.

"I feel like I've played as long as I can at a really high level, both physically and mentally," Bird said while fighting back tears at a press conference later that day.

Widely considered the greatest point guard in the history of women's basketball, Bird has won a record five Olympic gold medals, four WNBA championships, two NCAA championships with the Huskies, and five EuroLeague titles. She's the WNBA's all-time assist leader with 3,114 — over 500 more than any other player — and has also been selected to a league-record 12 All-Star games.

Turn to Bird, Page 4

UConn MEN'S BASKETBALL

New guard Newton getting acclimated

By Shreyas Laddha
Hartford Courant

Tristen Newton will never forget the day he entered the NCAA transfer portal.

The date was March 28 and the former East Carolina guard likely set a personal record for time spent on his iPhone with 11 straight hours of talking to coaches around the country.

Newton was coming off an impressive junior season averaging 17.7 points, five assists and 4.8 rebounds, but he felt some coaches were just looking at his numbers.

He wanted to play for a coach that also had done the research on who he was on and off the court.

Finally, one school checked all his boxes and emerged at the top of his list: UConn.

With the departure of Huskies star guards Tyrese Martin and R.J. Cole to the pros, Newton felt it was the perfect fit.

"I knew what they were losing and what they needed," he said. "What I bring to the table is what

Turn to Newton, Page 4



East Carolina guard Tristen Newton brings the ball up the court against Houston on Jan. 22 in Houston. Newton transferred to UConn this offseason. **JUSTIN REX/AP**

ATHLETICS 4, RED SOX 3

Sox fail to secure sweep over A's

Associated Press

BOSTON — Paul Blackburn continued his road success by pitching sharply into the sixth inning, Christian Bethancourt hit a two-run single and the Oakland Athletics held off the Boston Red Sox 4-3 Thursday for just their second win in 15 games.

Chad Pinder added an RBI single for Oakland, which closed its nine-game road trip at 2-7 and avoided being swept in a three-game series by

Boston for the second time this month.

"Earlier in the day I got a question about this team's fight," A's manager Mark Kotsay said. "If they didn't show up and fight today, I don't know what they did. Long road trip, obviously, not a successful one."

J.D. Martinez had three singles and drove in a run for Boston. The Red Sox, who had won 11 of 13, left eight runners on in the first four innings and 13 overall.

Boston star Rafael

Turn to Sox, Page 2

SPORTS

UP NEXT

Celtics: NBA Finals: at Warriors (Game 7, if necessary), Sunday, 8 p.m.
Red Sox: Cardinals, Friday, 7 p.m.; Cardinals, Saturday, 7:15 p.m.; Cardinals, Sunday, 1:30 p.m.
Yankees: at Blue Jays, Friday, 7 p.m.; at Blue Jays, Saturday, 3 p.m.; at Blue Jays, Sunday, 1:30 p.m.
Mets: Marlins, Friday, 7 p.m.; Marlins, Saturday, 4 p.m.; Marlins, Sunday, 1:30 p.m.
Yard Goats: Akron, Friday, 7 p.m.; Akron, Saturday, 6 p.m.; Akron, Sunday, 1 p.m.
Sun: Storm, Friday, 7 p.m.; at Mystics, Sunday, 2 p.m.; Liberty, Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Hartford Athletic: at Atlanta United II, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Louisville City, June 25, 1 p.m.; Colorado Springs, June 28, 7 p.m.

TV/RADIO

AUTO RACING
1:55 p.m.: Formula 1 Racing Canada Grand Prix, Practice 1. (Live) ESPN
4:55 p.m.: Formula 1 Racing Canada Grand Prix, Practice 2. (Live) ESPN
8 p.m.: NHRA Drag Racing Thunder Valley Nationals, Qualifying. (Live) FS1
BASEBALL
2 p.m.: Men's College World Series Oklahoma vs Texas A&M. (Live) ESPN
7 p.m.: Men's College World Series Notre Dame vs Texas. (Live) ESPN
7 p.m.: St. Louis Cardinals at Boston Red Sox. (Live), NESN. Radio: 1080
7 p.m.: New York Yankees at Toronto Blue Jays. (Live), YES. Radio: 97.9
7 p.m.: Miami Marlins at New York Mets. (Live), SNY. Radio: 880
BASKETBALL
7 p.m.: WNBA: Seattle Storm at Connecticut Sun. (Live) CBSN
FOOTBALL
7:30 p.m.: Winnipeg Blue Bombers at Ottawa Redblacks. (Live) ESPN2
11:30 p.m.: Port Adelaide Power vs Sydney Swans. (Live) FSP
2:30 a.m.: West Coast Eagles vs Geelong Cats. (Live) FSP
5 a.m.: Greater Western Sydney Giants vs Western Bulldogs. (Live) FS1
GOLF
9:30 a.m.: U.S. Open Golf Championship Second Round. (Live) USA
3 p.m.: Meijer LPGA Classic, Second Round. (Live) GOLF
4 p.m.: U.S. Open Golf Championship Second Round. (Live) NBC
9 p.m.: U.S. Open Golf Championship Second Round. (Taped) GOLF
RUGBY
5:30 a.m.: NRL Rugby Parramatta Eels vs Sydney Roosters. (Live) FSP



Shan Riggs of Southbury makes it to Hartford, 2,300 miles into his run on the East Coast Greenway Thursday. Riggs is running to raise money for and awareness about the Greenway. **LORI RILEY/HARTFORD COURANT**

RUNNING

Man on a mission

On a trek from Florida to Maine, Connecticut ultramarathoner wants to raise awareness about the East Coast Greenway

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — It was Day 62 for Shan Riggs. He had run 2,300 miles from Key West, Fla., and now he was home, in Connecticut, but he still had 700 miles to go before he could complete the entire East Coast Greenway.

He had been chased by a rooster for a mile in Florida, run on a beautiful trail along the Hudson River in New York, gone through five pairs of shoes and averaged 40 miles a day since he started the trek up the East Coast on April 16.

“Going across the country on foot is kind of a great way to piece together this country of ours,” said Riggs, 43. “It’s nice to do a little bit of good for a good cause. One thing I know how to do is run really, really far. If we can have that be for a good cause, that’s great.”

Riggs, an ultramarathoner from Southbury, had lost his job as events coordinator with the Hartford Marathon Foundation in 2020 when the pandemic shut everything down. He decided to run across the country to raise money for Foodshare, based in Bloomfield. He raised over \$40,000 by the time he splashed into the waters of Long Island Sound at Hammonasset Beach in Madison on Dec. 1, three months and 3,250 miles after he started in San Francisco.

This would be a different trip — he wanted to be the first person to run the 3,000 miles of the entire East Coast Greenway from Florida to Maine, while raising awareness about the Greenway and funds to maintain the trails and connect other unconnected trails together.

“About 1,000 miles is separated trail, the rest is on roads or sidewalks,” Riggs said. “The whole mission of the Greenway is to put all that together so it’s safe for cyclists and walkers and runners.”

“So as the first person who is running the whole thing, one of the things I want to do is point out the fact there is a lot of work still to be done. We have these nice spaces, but there’s also a lot that’s a little sketchy to run or walk on. We’ve been fine, it’s been safe so far, but it could be better.”

His partner, Josh Grant, who is riding a bicycle, which carries gear and supplies, with Riggs said her least favorite part was in South Carolina.

“There were a couple of sections that were kind of stressful,” Grant said. “Route 17 is a highway section in South Carolina and there’s no way around it. There were some sections in some cities - you don’t have a lot of space, the bike ride is littered with debris so it’s not safe. My favorite section was the Hudson River Greenway in Manhattan.”

The Greenway is comprised of trails connected by roads. When Riggs entered Connecticut in Greenwich, he ran on roads all the way to New Haven, where he and Grant got onto the Farmington Canal Trail, which they took all the way to Simsbury before they had to get back on the road again to get to Hartford. Friday, they will head toward Rhode Island on rail trail, then up through Massachusetts then Maine. The journey is expected to last another two weeks approximately and end in Calais, Maine, on the Canadian border.

Riggs has raised \$8,000 so far; his goal is \$30,000.

“It’s been as smooth as this kind of thing could be,” Riggs said. “It’s amazing what the body can get used to. I’m stronger now than I was the first week. Now I just wake up every day and it’s just what we do. It’s just life.”

For more information on Riggs and his trip, go to Home | RunAcrossAmerica (eastcoast-greenwayexpedition.com)

Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com.

YANKEES LATE WEDNESDAY

Judge, Higashioka HRs power streaking Yankees past Rays

Courant wires

NEW YORK — The Yankees sense a special season, even with exactly 100 games remaining before a playoff run they hope will result in their first World Series title in 13 years.

They set a record for most consecutive wins in the new Yankee Stadium, stretching their streak to 13 with a 4-3 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays on Wednesday night. Aaron Judge hit his major league-leading 25th home run and No. 9 batter Kyle Higashioka followed an intentional walk with a three-run drive that built a four-run lead.

“The fans,” Judge said, “they’re loud, they’re on their feet all game, from the very first pitch they’re there and then the top of the ninth they were screaming.”

Nestor Cortes (6-2) outpitched Shane McClellan (7-3) in a matchup of stellar starters with sub-2.00 ERAs, and Clay Holmes matched Mariano Rivera’s team record of 28 consecutive scoreless appearances while shrinking his ERA to 0.29.

The major league-leading Yankees have won six in a row and 13 of 14 overall. New York’s 46-16 record is its best after 62 games since 1998 and its home winning streak is its longest since 13 straight at the old ballpark from June 2 to July 1, 1973.

“The energy at Yankee Stadium is always good, but it does feel like with the start we’ve gotten off to, there’s been a lot of energetic, special nights already,” manager Aaron Boone said.

The game was interrupted for nearly 17 minutes in the top of the eighth in a dispute over a pitching change after Randy Arozarena was hit by Miguel Castro’s pitch with the Yankees leading 4-1. Pitching coach Matt Blake went to the mound while a Rays trainer attended to Arozarena. Ji-Man Choi pinch hit for Isaac Paredes, and Boone came out to bring in left-hander Lucas Luetge.

Crew chief Phil Cuzzi said he consulted with the replay room at the commissioner’s office to make sure Blake went to the mound before Choi was signaled in — only one trip per batter is allowed.

“That was brutal. I feel like that can’t happen,” Higashioka said. “There’s got to be somebody that knows what to do.”

Run-scoring singles by Choi and René Pinto cut the gap to one run. Luetge retired Brett Phillips on an inning-ending flyout, and Holmes remained perfect in 11 save chances, getting two outs on grounders around a strikeout.

Boone said he will use Holmes in high-leverage situations when Aroldis Chapman returns from the injured list.

METS LATE WEDNESDAY

Burnes, Adames lead Brewers to rout of Mets

Courant wires

NEW YORK — Corbin Burnes bounced back from his two shortest outings of the season, Willy Adames got two of his three hits in a seven-run fifth inning and the Milwaukee Brewers routed the New York Mets 10-2 on Wednesday night for their second win in 11 games.

Milwaukee’s big night gave manager Craig Counsell his 564th victory with the Brewers, breaking the franchise record. Counsell, the longest-tenured manager in the National League, passed Phil Garner, who managed 1,180 games for the team from 1992-99.

Counsell was showered with beer by his players and conducted his postgame interview with his hair still

soaked. He also got a gift from Brewers owner Mark Attanasio along with video messages from retired Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski, Milwaukee Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer and Golden State Warriors coach Steve Kerr.

“It’s humbling, for sure,” Counsell said. “What I told the players, I feel a lot of gratitude for everything that they’ve contributed to. They do the heavy lifting and it’s been fun to watch a great era of Brewer baseball.”

Counsell is 564-508 since taking over for Ron Roenicke on May 4, 2015, and the Wisconsin native is the third-longest tenured manager in the majors behind Cleveland’s Terry Francona and Tampa Bay’s Kevin Cash.



Red Sox second baseman Trevor Story is unable to catch a ball of the bat of Athletics’ Cristian Pache during the third inning on Thursday at Fenway Park in Boston. **MARY SCHWALM/AP**

Sox

from Page 1

Devers went 0 for 2 with a pair of walks and was hit by a pitch, ending his streak of four straight games with a home run.

Leading 4-1 in the eighth, Oakland third baseman Jonah Bride made a two-out throwing error that let a run score. Martinez followed with an RBI single that second baseman Tony Kemp stopped with a dive in shallow center, keeping the tying run from scoring.

Blackburn (6-2) gave up a run and eight hits, with four strikeouts and two walks in 5 ½ innings, slightly increasing his road ERA from 0.91 to 1.00. He entered with the majors’ lowest ERA away from home.

“I am,” he said, smiling, when asked if he was aware

of his road ERA. “There’s just something about coming into a place and quieting a crowd. It’s just what I’ve always enjoyed.”

“Playing here, I know the fans are going to be great. I know it’s a huge baseball town, they’re going to have this place packed and people are going to be chirping me in the bullpen,” he said. “Just being able to hear those comments and kind of prove people wrong, pitching on the road is a different beast in this game.”

Dany Jiménez got four outs for his 11th save.

After scoring just two total runs in the opening two games of the series, the Athletics grabbed a 3-0 edge in the third against Rich Hill (2-4), taking advantage of a gift double when second baseman Trevor Story appeared to call for Cris-

tian Pache’s one-out pop in shallow center, but had it fall behind him.

Boston manager Alex Cora said center fielder Jarren Duran should have called for it.

“We didn’t make a play, that flyball,” Red Sox manager Alex Cora said. “Jarren needs to take charge on that one. ... From there, they score the runs.”

Pache scored on Pinder’s single. Bethancourt lined his two-run hit down the left-field line after Ramón Laureano doubled.

Story went 0 for 5 with three strikeouts, dropping his average to .218.

“A little more ups and downs than usual,” he said. “I’m looking forward to being more consistent, for sure.”

Hill allowed four runs, three earned, in 5 ½ innings.

RED SOX NOTES

Sale shows encouraging signs in well-attended mound session

By Peter Abraham
Boston Globe

BOSTON — Chris Sale took the Fenway Park mound at 11 a.m. Thursday with a big crowd on hand.

Red Sox assistant general manager Eddie Romero, pitching coach Dave Bush, game-planning coordinator Jason Varitek, and bench coach Will Venable were among those watching behind a screen in back of home plate.

Manager Alex Cora, general manager Brian O’Halloran, and vice president of baseball operations Ben Crockett took seats in the stands.

Chief baseball officer Chaim Bloom stood in the aisle behind the field box seats.

Some of Sale’s fellow pitchers watched from the grass behind second base. Rafael Devers and third base coach Carlos Febles sat behind the dugout.

They liked what they saw. Sale threw 32 pitches, 16 for strikes, over two innings to Kiké Hernández, Rob Refsnyder, and Triple A infielder Grant Williams. Unofficially: Two strikeouts, a walk, two ground outs, and a fly ball.

“Good, really good,” Cora said. “94-95 [miles per hour]. Good changeup.” The last part is important. Sale was primarily a fast-ball/slider pitcher last season and never gained command of his changeup. Having it back in his repertoire would make a significant difference.

“We know he’s going to contribute,” Cora said.

Old friends: Friday night will be special for Michael Wacha. The Red Sox righthander is the scheduled starter against the St. Louis Cardinals, the organization he was

with from 2012-19.

Wacha will be facing St. Louis for the first time and going up against Cardinals legend Adam Wainwright, his rotation mate for seven seasons.

“I’ve said what a good influence he was on me when I was younger,” Wacha said. “It’ll be a lot of fun. I’m looking forward to it.”

The Cardinals are the only team Wacha hasn’t pitched against in his career.

“That’s kind of a cool thing, getting to play at least one game against everybody,” he said. “I’ve been fortunate in my career to do the things I’ve done.”

Cora is looking forward to the weekend, too. He has great regard for Wainwright, Yadier Molina, and Albert Pujols. All three are likely to retire after the season.

“When Albert was Albert — The Machine — he was the best of the best,” Cora said. “He did everything. In any spot, just to be able to hit the ball the other way and grind at-bats and hit homers and then steal bases. He was great.”

Cora twice played with Molina for Puerto Rico in the World Baseball Classic.

“The will to win games ... relentless,” Cora said.

Sore spot: The Red Sox have been hit by pitches 11 times in their last 13 games and are getting annoyed about it.

Devers was drilled in his left elbow by A.J. Puk in the seventh inning of Thursday’s 4-3 loss against Oakland. It was the same spot where he got hit by Seattle’s Robbie Ray Sunday.

“We don’t like it,” Cora said. “I’m not going to put the opposition in jeopardy, but it’s been a lot. It’s been happening for a while.”

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
New York	46	16	.742	—	—	9-1	W-6	28-7	18-9
Toronto	37	26	.587	9 ½	—	6-4	L-1	20-12	17-14
Tampa Bay	35	27	.565	11	—	4-6	L-2	21-13	14-14
Boston	34	30	.531	13	½	7-3	L-1	15-15	19-15
Baltimore	28	37	.431	19 ½	7	5-5	W-1	15-15	13-22

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Minnesota	37	28	.569	—	—	6-4	W-1	20-14	17-14
Cleveland	32	27	.542	2	—	8-2	W-4	16-10	16-17
Chicago	30	31	.492	5	3	6-4	W-3	13-17	17-14
Detroit	24	38	.387	11 ½	9 ½	3-7	L-4	16-20	8-18
Kansas City	21	41	.339	14 ½	12 ½	4-6	W-1	12-21	9-20

WEST	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Houston	39	24	.619	—	—	5-5	W-2	16-10	23-14
Texas	29	33	.468	9 ½	4 ½	4-6	L-2	14-18	15-15
Los Angeles	29	35	.453	10 ½	5 ½	2-8	L-3	17-18	12-17
Seattle	28	35	.444	11	6	5-5	L-1	14-14	14-21
Oakland	22	43	.338	18	13	2-8	W-1	7-23	15-20

BOX SCORES

OAKLAND 4, BOSTON 3

Oakland	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Pinder lf	4	1	1	1	1	.248
Laureano rf	4	1	2	0	0	.260
Bethancourt c	4	0	1	2	3	.260
Murphy dh	4	0	1	0	1	.208
Davidson 3b	3	0	0	0	0	.182
b-Kemp ph-2b	1	0	0	0	0	
Brown 1b	4	1	1	0	3	.205
Andrus ss	4	0	0	0	0	.224
Bride 2b-3b	4	0	1	0	0	.412
Pache cf	4	1	1	0	0	.164
TOTALS	36	4	8	3	5	
Boston	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG

Duran cf	3	0	2	0	1	.300
a-Dalbec ph-1b2	0	0	0	0	1	.196
Devers 3b	2	1	0	0	0	.329
Martinez dh	5	0	3	1	1	.351
Bogaerts ss	5	0	1	1	0	.332
Verdugo lf	5	0	0	0	0	.246
Story 2b	5	0	0	0	3	.218
Cordero 1b-rf	3	0	1	0	1	.218
c-Refsnyder rf	2	1	1	0	0	.412
Vazquez c	3	1	1	0	0	.272
Bradley Jr. rf-cf4	0	2	0	0	0	.235
TOTALS	39	3	11	2	7	

Oakland	003	001	000	—	4	8	2
Boston	001	000	020	—	3	11	1

a-struck out for Duran in the 6th.
b-grounded out for Davidson in the 8th.
c-lined for Cordero in the 8th.
E: Laureano (2), Bride (1), Devers (8).
LB: Oakland 5, Boston 13.
2B: Pache (4), Laureano (9), Murphy (15), Duran (1).
RBIs: Pinder (16), Bethancourt 2 (17), Bogaerts (31), Martinez (28).
Runners left in scoring position: Oakland 2 (Brown, Bride), Boston 7 (Bogaerts, Verdugo, Duran, Martinez 2, Story 2).
RISP: Oakland 2for 6; Boston 1for 14.
Runners moved up: Kemp, Bogaerts, Verdugo, Dalbec.

OAKLAND	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Blackburn, W, 6-25½	8	1	0	1	2	4	2.26
Puk, H, 7	⅔	0	0	0	0	0	2.91
Hick, H, 11	1	0	0	0	2	3	3.55
Mohr, H, 6	⅔	1	2	0	1	0	1.33
Jimenez, S, 11-13	⅔	1	0	0	0	0	4.44
BOSTON	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Hill, L, 2-4	5½	7	4	3	0	4	4.42
Sawamura	⅔	0	0	0	0	0	2.91
Brasler	1	0	0	0	0	0	5.01
Robles	1	0	0	0	0	1	3.05
Danish	1	0	0	0	0	0	3.00
Inherited runners-scored: Puk 1-0, Jackson 1-0, Jimenez 2-1, Sawamura 1-1. IBB: off Blackburn (Devers). HBP: Puk (Devers). PB: Vazquez (3).							
Umpires: Home, Bruce Dreckman; First, Nestor Ceja; Second, Ted Barrett; Third, Lance Barksdale.							
T: 3:15. A: 30,779(37,755).							

LATE WEDNESDAY: N.Y. YANKEES 4, TAMPA BAY 3

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Diaz 3b	5	1	2	0	1	.270
Ramirez dh	4	0	0	0	0	.286
b-Mejia ph	1	0	0	0	0	.202
Margot rf	3	1	2	1	1	.317
Arozarena lf	2	1	0	0	0	.265
Paredes 1b	3	0	0	0	0	.197
a-Choi ph-1b	1	0	1	1	0	.288
Pinto c	4	0	1	1	2	.182
Kiermaier cf	0	0	0	0	0	.225
Phillips cf	3	0	0	0	1	.171
Walls ss	4	0	1	0	2	.148
Brujan 2b	4	0	0	0	1	.151
TOTALS	34	3	7	3	8	
NY Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
LeMahieu 2b	4	0	0	0	1	.256
Judge cf	3	1	1	1	2	.313
Rizzo 1b	3	0	0	0	0	.218
Stanton rf	3	0	0	0	1	.268
Donaldson 3b	3	1	0	0	1	.230
Torres dh	2	0	0	0	0	.250
Hicks lf	3	0	0	0	3	.222
Kiner-Falefa ss	2	1	1	0	0	.274
Higashioka c	3	1	1	3	1	.177
TOTALS	26	4	3	4	9	

Tampa Bay	000	001	020	—	3	7	1
N.Y. Yankees	100	030	00x	—	4	3	1

a-singled for Paredes in the 8th.
b-grounded out for Ramirez in the 9th.
E: Phillips (2), Cortes (1).
LB: Tampa Bay 8, New York 0.
2B: Diaz 2(6), Margot 2(10).
HR: Judge (25), off McClanahan; Higashioka (3), off McClanahan.
RBIs: Margot (24), Choi (32), Pinto (3), Judge (49), Higashioka 3(10). CS: Torres (2).
Runners left in scoring position: Tampa Bay 3 (Phillips, Margot, Pinto); New York 0. **RISP:** Tampa Bay 3for 9; New York 1for 3. **Runners moved up:** Torres. **GIDP:** LeMahieu. **DP:** Tampa Bay 1 (Walls, Brujan, Paredes).
TAMPA BAY IP H R ER BB SO ERA
McClanahan, L, 7-36 3 4 1 2 7 1.84
Thompson 1 0 0 0 0 1 6.30
Armstrong 1 0 0 0 0 1 1.12
NY YANKEES IP H R ER BB SO ERA
Cortes, W, 6-2 5½ 3 1 1 3 3 1.94
Peralta, H, 6 ⅔ 0 0 0 0 0 3.150
Castro, H, 7 ⅔ 1 2 2 0 0 3.72
Luetge, H, 5 ½ 2 0 0 0 0 4.08
Holmes, S, 11-11 1 1 0 0 0 1 0.29
Inherited runners-scored: Peralta 2-0, Luetge 2-2.
IBB: off McClanahan (Kiner-Falefa).
HBP: Castro (Arozarena). **Umpires:** Home, Cory Blaser; First, Cuzki Ripberger; Second, Phil Mack; Third, Malachi Moore.
T: 2:58. **A:** 35,104(47,309).

ON THIS DATE

JUNE 17
1915: George "Zip" Zabel of the Chicago Cubs was called into the game against the Brooklyn Dodgers with two outs in the first inning. He won 4-3 in the 19th inning in the longest relief effort in the majors.
1943: Player-manager Joe Cronin of the Boston Red Sox hit a three-run pinch homer in both games of a double-header against the Philadelphia A's. The Red Sox won the opener 5-4 and lost the second game 8-7.
1960: Ted Williams of the Boston Red Sox connected for his 500th career home run off the Cleveland Indians. Williams, the fourth to accomplish the feat, hit a two-run homer off Wynn Hawkins in a 3-1 win.
1971: Don Kessinger of the Chicago Cubs went 6-for-6, with five singles and a double, in a 7-6, 10-inning decision over the St. Louis Cardinals at Wrigley Field.
1978: Ron Guidry of the New York Yankees struck out 18 California Angels to set an American League record for left-handers. Guidry, who struck out 15 in the first six innings, ended with a 4-0 four-hitter.

SAN DIEGO 6, CHI. CUBS 4

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Profar lf	4	2	1	1	1	.253
Cronenworth 2b3	0	1	1	0	0	.246
Machado 3b	5	0	3	1	0	.328
Voit dh	5	0	0	0	4	.230
Hosmer 1b	4	2	2	0	0	.288
Mazara rf	3	1	2	2	0	.350
a-Azocar ph-rf	1	0	0	1	0	.244
Nola c	4	0	1	1	1	.228
Grisham cf	3	1	0	0	0	.187
Alcantara ss	4	0	1	0	2	.165
TOTALS	36	6	11	6	9	
Chi Cubs	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG

Morel cf	4	1	2	1	2	.283
Contreras c	4	1	1	0	1	.276
Happ dh	4	0	1	1	2	.282
Wisdom 1b	4	0	1	0	2	.225
Ortega lf	4	0	0	0	2	.257
Hoerner ss	3	1	0	0	0	.273
Villar 3b	4	1	1	0	0	.287
Heyward rf	3	0	0	1	1	.205
b-Schwindel ph1	0	0	1	0	0	.238
Simmons 2b	3	0	1	1	1	.167
c-Gomes ph	1	0	0	0	0	.250
TOTALS	35	4	7	4	11	

San Diego	030	110	010	—	6	11	1
Chi. Cubs	100	010	011	—	4	7	0

a-struck out for Mazara in the 9th.
b-grounded out for Heyward in the 9th.
c-lined out for Simmons in the 9th.
E: Hosmer (3).
LB: San Diego 10, Chicago 5.
2B: Cronenworth (16), Mazara (2), Nola (5), Happ (13). 3B: Villar (1).
HR: Mazara (1), off Swarmer; Profar (8), off Robertson; Morel (5), off Musgrove. RBIs: Mazara 2 (9), Cronenworth (40), Machado (43), Nola (16), Profar (35), Morel (14), Simmons (7), Happ (31), Schwindel (33).
SB: Grisham (2), Morel (7). **SF:** Nola.
Runners left in scoring position: San Diego 5 (Alcantara, Voit, Grisham, Machado 2); Chicago 3 (Ortega, Contreras 2). **RISP:** San Diego 2for 8; Chicago 1for 6. **Runners moved up:** Villar, Heyward, Schwindel.
GIDP: Mazara. **DP:** Chicago 1 (Simmons, Hoerner, Wisdom).

SAN DIEGO	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Musgrove, W, 8-0	7	5	2	2	1	9	1.59
Garcia	1	1	1	0	0	2	3.00
Rogers, S, 20-23	1	1	1	0	0	2	2.96
CHI CUBS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Swarmer, L, 1-2	3½	4	4	4	5	4	5.23
Effross	⅔	1	0	0	0	1	1.325
Hughes	⅔	2	1	1	0	0	2.87
Givens	⅔	3	0	0	0	1	4.38
Robertson	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.90
Norris	1	0	0	0	0	0	1.792
Inherited runners-scored: Effross 2-1. Umpires: Home, Erich Bachcus; First, CB Bucknor; Second, Stu Scheuwater; Third, Brian Knight. T: 3:03. A: 30,096(41,649).							

LATE WEDNESDAY: BOSTON 10, OAKLAND 1

Oakland	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Kauffman 3b	3	0	1	0	0	.235
Laureano cf	4	0	1	0	1	.242
Brown lf	4	0	0	0	1	.204
Bethancourt 1b4	0	0	0	0	2	.260
Vogt dh	2	0	0	0	2	.167
a-Davidson dh	2	1	1	1	0	.211
Andrus ss	4	0	0	0	0	.228
Murphy c	4	0	2	0	0	.207
Barrera rf	3	0	0	0	0	.217
Bride 3b	3	0	2	0	0	.333
TOTALS	33	1	7	1	6	
Boston	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Duran cf	4	1	0	0	2	.235
Devers 3b	3	3	1	2	0	.332
Martinez dh	3	2	1	0	0	.345
Bogaerts ss	4	2	3	2	0	.335
Verdugo lf	5	1	3	4	0	.251
Story 2b	4	0	2	1	1	.223
Cordero 1b	5	0	1	0	1	.216
Plawecki c	4	0	0	0	2	.141
Bradley Jr. rf	4	1	2	0	1	.229
TOTALS	36	10	13	9	7	

Oakland	000	001	000	—	1	7	1
Boston	121	202	02x	—	10	13	0

a-homered for Vogt in the 6th.
E: Kaprielian (1).
LB: Oakland 6, Boston 10.
2B: Laureano (8), Bogaerts 2 (19), Martinez (23).
HR: Davidson (1), off Diekmann; Devers (16), off Kaprielian; Verdugo (4), off Acevedo.
RBIs: Davidson (2), Verdugo 4 (33), Devers 2 (40), Bogaerts 2 (30), Story (42). **SF:** Bogaerts.
Runners left in scoring position: Oakland 2 (Brown, Laureano); Boston 5 (Bradley Jr., Cordero 3, Plawecki).
RISP: Oakland 0for 3; Boston 5for 12.
Runners moved up: Verdugo, Martinez.
GIDP: Kemp.
DP: Boston 1 (Story, Bogaerts, Cordero).

1993: Baseball owners voted 26-2 in favor of expanding the playoffs for the first time in 25 years, doubling the teams that qualify to eight starting in 1994.

2007: Brandon Watson extended his hitting streak to 43 games, breaking a 95-year-old International League record with a base hit in the Columbus Clippers' 9-8 loss to the Ottawa Lynx.

Jack Livelt set the IL record for the Rochester Hustlers in 1912.

2007: Frank Thomas hit his record-breaking 244th homer as a designated hitter in Toronto's 4-2 loss to Washington. The solo shot in the third inning moved Thomas past Edgar Martinez for the most homers by a DH in major league history.

2006: Seattle's Felix Hernandez struck out nine on nine pitches in the fourth inning of a 5-4 win over Florida, becoming the 13th pitcher in American League history to accomplish the feat.

2016: Michael Saunders leads the Toronto Blue Jays to a 13-3 win over the Baltimore Orioles with three home runs and 8 RBIs.

2021: The Arizona Diamondback set a new all-time mark with their 23rd consecutive road loss losing to the Giants 10-3.

SPORTS



UConn coach Geno Auriemma instructs guard Sue Bird during a 2000 NCAA Tournament game in Gampel Arena. COURANT FILE

Bird

from Page 1

No player in league history has had a longer career.

“I do think longevity is a big part of my career,” Bird said. “I hope other players can see a career like this one, see the length of it, see the success of it and know that they can do it, too. Because not that it’s not going to be easy, but it’s doable, right? There’s ways in which you could play a very, very long time. And hopefully, I’m one of the athletes that I helped start that narrative in women’s basketball. So that’s something I’m definitely proud of.”

Bird has been honored on each of the WNBA’s milestone teams, including the All-Decade Team (2006), Top 15 Players (2011) and Top 20@20 (2016). She was named to the W25 team in 2021 as one of the 25 greatest and most influential players in league history.

Retirement has been on Bird’s mind for some time now. She’s talked publicly about how big of an influence the “One more year!” chants from fans after the Storm were eliminated by the Phoenix Mercury in last season’s play-offs had in her coming back for 2022. Signs indicated this season would be her last, now we officially know it is.

Bird went back and forth on when to announce the news. It wasn’t until she started preparing for the Storm’s current road trip, which is capped by a game in her home state of New York against the Liberty, that she started seriously thinking about making things public.

“I feel like for every athlete, sometimes it really just comes down to you know when you know,” Bird said. “There isn’t necessarily a recipe for it, you just know when you know. And now that I know and this New York game is coming, I get to share it with my family, my friends, which I’m excited about it. It was the right time for me.”

Bird told her Storm teammates during a dinner Wednesday night,

followed by the coaches on Thursday morning. There was a small group of other people who knew as well, including UConn head coach Geno Auriemma.

The retirement announcement comes in the same state in which Bird first rose to the national spotlight and saw her career take off: Connecticut. The Storm play the Connecticut Sun on Friday night.

“It wasn’t necessarily planned but at the same time it’s special that it happened this way. I’m thankful that it happened this way,” Bird said. “When the schedule comes out, there’s two games that I circle, right, mentally: New York game and the Connecticut game. And that’s because they feel like homecoming. I know that I’m gonna get the support, I know that I’m going to be able to play in front of people that really watched me grow up, right. And that’s really special to me.”

Bird joined UConn from Long Island, New York, in 1998 as part of a dynamic recruiting class alongside Swin Cash, Tamika Williams and Asjha Jones. She was sidelined most of her first season in college with an ACL injury but went on to lead the Huskies to three Final Fours and two national titles.

For all the talent that has come since her days in Storrs, Bird still holds the program record for career 3-point percentage (45.9%) and free-throw percentage (89.2%). Her 231 assists in the 2001-02 season remain the most dished out by any Husky in a single season.

“There certainly isn’t anything that Sue left undone or to prove,” Auriemma said. “There’s going to be a lot of stories written and comparisons made about her and everything she’s done. It really is no exaggeration to say, I don’t think in our lifetime of watching basketball, that we’ve seen anyone play that position at a higher level and for a longer period of time than Sue has.”

After UConn won its second title under Bird in 2002, she was drafted No. 1 overall by Seattle, where she has spent the entirety of her career in the WNBA.

Bird has been with the Storm for 21 of the team’s 23 seasons of existence, playing in 19 of them. She’s scored or assisted on 27.5% of every basket scored in the franchise’s history, even with the four seasons she didn’t play in 2000, 2001, 2013 and 2012. She led Seattle to its first WNBA championship in 2004, and did so again in 2010, 2018 and 2020.

As of her retirement announcement, Bird is the only player in WNBA history to play in at least 500 games, starting in each of the 559 in her career. She also ranks second in career 3-pointers made (965), fourth in steals (700), and seventh in points (6,639).

Across her 19 seasons in the WNBA, Bird has career averages of 11.9 points, 5.6 assists, 2.6 rebounds and 1.3 steals per game, while shooting 39.2% from 3-point range. Through 10 games in the 2022 season, Bird is averaging 7.8 points, 6.6 assists, 1.9 rebounds and 1.3 steals per game.

As for once the season ends and her playing career is over, Bird said she doesn’t know what exactly life holds next.

“That’s really the beauty of it,” Bird said. “One quote I always come back to, and I’ve said this before, is when Derek Jeter retired he said he was looking forward to being a young person again. So I realize 41 is actually young—currently I don’t feel that way in my line of work—so it’s really exciting to know that what’s ahead of me, I can be young again, I can kind of try new things and see what’s out there.”

Still, there’s a sadness for Bird that her career is coming to a close. Most notably, she’s going to miss the schedule, purpose and grind that comes with the day to day of being a professional athlete, as well as the team moments.

“I’ve been doing this since I was 5 or 6 years old, it’s really all I know,” Bird said. “So of course, I’m sad. It’s a little bit of like a mourning knowing that I’m gonna miss it, but I mean have no regrets. I feel wonderful about my career and the people I’ve met, the things we’ve all accomplished.”

Riley

from Page 1

states, they will be adopted by Connecticut. They will play in a national spotlight. Their lives will change dramatically.”

So it’s fitting that Bird, 41, now an iconic sports figure who trades bon mots with Larry Bird in commercials, was featured in the Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue and has been a high-profile advocate for social justice, was back in Connecticut Thursday, the day she announced she will retire from basketball at the end of the WNBA season. Connecticut long ago adopted Bird and her 2002 UConn teammates Swin Cash, Diana Taurasi, Tamika Williams (now Williams-Jeter) and Asjha Jones as its own.

Bird, whose Seattle Storm team will play the Connecticut Sun Friday night, played in the national spotlight with UConn and the Storm, winning four WNBA titles, and in the international spotlight with the Olympic team, where she and Taurasi won an unprecedented five gold medals.

“People would say ‘You played with Sue Bird?’” Williams-Jeter said, laughing. “I say, ‘She’s still my little Birdie to me.’”

In April 2002 in San Antonio, Bird won her second NCAA championship with a team that was arguably one of the best ever in women’s college basketball. She had a



Sue Bird works out at Gold’s Gym in Long Island before heading to UConn in the summer of 1998. COURANT FILE

career-high 26 points, to go with 11 assists in the Midwest Regional final against Old Dominion and was named the regional’s most outstanding player to help UConn get to the Final Four.

“Thank God there’s a WNBA and we can all watch her play at the next level,” ODU coach Wendy Larry said that day.

Her mother told us stories that day in August 1998 about how little Susie hated to lose. How she was in a relay race at age 6 and her teammate botched the baton handoff and Sue took the baton and threw it on the ground. When another mother asked whose little girl that was, Nancy deadpanned, “I don’t know.”

Fittingly, in Bird’s senior year, the Huskies would not lose, capping off a 39-0 season with an 82-70 win over Oklahoma in the championship game at the Alamodome.

“Jubilations!” Williams-Jeter screamed to the crowd of 29,619 fans.

What I remember most from that Easter Day back

in 2002 was when the giant flag that flew over the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001 was unfurled on the floor during the pregame ceremonies. Bird and Cash helped hold the flag as the national anthem played and Bird, a New Yorker born and bred, looked down at the flag and bit her lip.

It had been a long road to get there. She had torn her ACL in practice in December of 1998 during her freshman year. UConn didn’t make it to the Final Four that year. In 2000, the Huskies won it in Philadelphia. In 2001, though Bird saved the day with a last-second shot to beat Notre Dame in the Big East championship game, they were snake bit with injuries and lost to the Irish in the national semifinal game in St. Louis.

“When I first met Sue on campus, she was totally New York to me, her accent, soft-spoken voice, really nice, very respectful,” said Williams-Jeter Thursday. “She had a way about her, like a coolness.

SOCCER

World Cup returning to East Rutherford, Foxborough in 2026

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Atlanta, Houston, Miami, Philadelphia, Seattle and Kansas City, Missouri, were the newcomers among the 11 U.S. sites picked to host games at the 2026 World Cup, while Baltimore, Cincinnati, Denver, Nashville, Tennessee, and Orlando, Florida, were left out.

Arlington, Texas; East Rutherford, New Jersey; Foxborough, Massachusetts, and Inglewood and Santa Clara, California, were the holdovers.

FIFA announced its selections Thursday for the first World Cup with three co-hosts, also picking three Mexican cities and two in Canada.

The U.S. selections included none of the nine stadiums used at the 1994 World Cup. The Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California, and Orlando’s Camping World Stadium were the only ones remaining in contention, and they were among the sites dropped in the final round.

New stadiums were selected in five areas used in 1994. AT&T Stadium in Texas replaced Dallas’ Cotton Bowl; SoFi Stadium in Inglewood took over for Pasadena’s Rose Bowl; and Levi’s Stadium instead of Stanford Stadium.

Met Life Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, and Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts,

replaced torn-down stadiums that were adjacent, Giants Stadium and Foxboro Stadium.

Orlando’s Camping World was dropped among existing 1994 venues. The Detroit area, where the old Pontiac Silverdome hosted games, was cut in 2018 and Baltimore’s M&T Bank Stadium was dropped after FedEx Field in Landover, Maryland, dropped out. Washington’s RFK Stadium was used in 1994.

Chicago, which hosted the 1994 opener at Solider Field, refused to bid, citing FIFA’s economic demands.

Mexico City’s Estadio Azteca, which hosted the 1970 and ‘86 finals and will become the first stadium in three World Cups, was selected along with Guadalajara’s Estadio Akron and Monterrey’s Estadio BBVA.

Toronto’s BMO Field and Vancouver, British Columbia’s B.C. Place were picked while Edmonton, Alberta’s Commonwealth Stadium was dropped.

The bid plan envisioned 60 games in the U.S., including all from the quarterfinals on, and 10 each in Mexico and Canada.

Specific sites for each round will be announced later.

In contrast to the 1992 site announcement during a news conference, the 2026 announcement was made during a televised show from Fox’s studio in Manhattan.

Newton

from Page 1

they need. What I needed was here. The style of play, the players are tough, the coach, the facility and just everything really.”

Newton arrived in April and is one of the Huskies’ four transfer guards, including Nahiem Alleyne (Virginia Tech), Hassan Diarra (Texas A&M) and most recently Joey Calcaterra (San Diego), who joined UConn on Monday.

Newton, a 6-foot-5 guard from Texas, in now in the midst of the team’s first session of summer workouts. Newton and Diarra are the only transfers at this session, but all four players keep in touch. The other two will attend the second session in July.

“Me and Hassan, we pretty much hang out every day,” Newton said. “Nahiem and I talk a lot. And Joey, we just went out to eat the other day. I know he’s going to be a great fit with the team.”

UConn coach Dan Hurley feels all four players bring plenty of basketball experience, but these summer sessions are about teaching newbies about the Huskies’ brand of basketball.

“They’re all veteran players,” he said. “The new guys that we brought in, the transfers, all have experience. They pick things up quickly and they’ve played a lot of basketball. So it’s more just understanding our culture, how we guard, how we play, and relationships.”

Newton watched plenty of UConn basketball while at East Carolina, but he got a firsthand glimpse of the culture when the Pirates played the Huskies on Feb. 29, 2020.

Even though UConn won 84-69, Newton had 25 points, six assists and five rebounds.

Although Newton’s

performance left a lasting impression on Hurley, the coach didn’t quite remember everything.

“When Kimani Young (UConn associate head coach) presented (Newton) as a portal candidate, I did not immediately remember him per se. I just remember somebody killed us that game,” Hurley said. “When they showed us the clips and bio, I was like yes, that’s the guy we had a whole lot of trouble with.”

After two weeks in Storrs, Newton is slowly getting used to it all. It’s very different from what he experienced in his three seasons with East Carolina.

“It’s been a lot different with the pace and physicality,” he said. “I have a feeling we are going to be good.”

Still, Newton is an expert at adapting to different cultures as he grew up in a military family that moved all around the country. One of the trademarks of UConn culture is the high level of mental toughness in Hurley’s players; Newton feels he fits right in.

“It’s just basketball, really,” he said. “The yelling and stuff are not really to get under your skin, but it’s the message. Pay attention to the message and not the yelling and the big environment. I have played in big games before. I am looking forward to doing it night in and night out.”

Hurley sees Newton as a natural fit.

“Tristen is the type of guard that I just enjoy coaching — diligent worker, can score and can create and a really, really good feel,” he said. “College basketball is going to see the best version of him. He’s got resources at his disposal in terms of what he can do physically in the weight room, becoming a better and stronger athlete. He’s what we expected. He’s a great kid on top of that, too.”

RUBBER DUCKS 1, YARD GOATS 0

Akron wins 3rd in row over Hartford

Staff report

HARTFORD — Logan Allen went six shutout innings with 11 strikeouts to lead the Akron Rubber Ducks to 1-0 win over the Yard Goats in an Eastern League game on Thursday night at Dunkin’ Donuts Park.

It was Akron’s third straight win over Hartford and comes one day after putting up 13 runs on 18 hits in a win Wednesday night.

Karl Kauffmann (4-3) was the hard-luck loser, allowing a single run on four hits in six innings. His lone mistake was to Rubber Ducks center fielder George Valera who touched him for a sixth inning solo home run.

In all Hartford (38-22) managed just three singles off four Akron pitchers. The Yard Goats had entered the six-game home series on a nine-game win streak but have managed just five runs in the three losses to Akron.

Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com.

SCOREBOARD

NBA PLAYOFFS

FINALS SCHEDULE

(best-of-7; x-if necessary)
#3 Golden State 3, #2 Boston 2
G1: June 2: Boston 120-108.
G2: June 5: Golden State 107-88.
G3: June 8: at Boston 116-100.
G4: June 10: Golden State 107-97.
G5: June 13: Golden State 104-94.
G6: Thursday: at Boston, 9 p.m.
x-G7: Sunday: vs. Golden State, 8 p.m.

TEAM PLAYOFF STATISTICS

GOLDEN STATE	G	PTS	APG	PPG
Klay Thompson	21	3.9	2.3	19.4
Stephen Curry	21	5.1	5.8	27.0
Andrew Wiggins	21	7.6	1.7	16.4
Draymond Green	21	7.0	6.2	7.8
Jordan Poole	21	2.8	3.9	17.0
Kevin Looney	21	7.7	2.2	6.0
Otto Porter Jr.	18	3.6	1.9	5.3
Gary Payton II	11	3.1	1.3	6.5
Nemanja Bjelica	15	2.1	1.1	2.9
Andre Iguodala	6	1.2	2.0	0.3
Jonathan Kuminga	16	1.7	0.5	5.2
Moses Moody	13	0.6	0.3	3.2
Damion Lee	16	1.6	0.4	2.0
Juan Toscano-Anderson	14	0.7	0.6	0.8
Team	21	43.9	27.0	112.3

WARRIORS	MIN	FG%	3P%	FT%	SPG	BPG
Thompson	35.8	.440	.391	.867	1.0	0.7
Curry	34.5	.453	.390	.824	1.3	0.3
Wiggins	34.4	.474	.323	.646	0.9	1.0
Green	31.5	.478	.176	.638	1.1	1.0
Poole	28.0	.512	.392	.913	0.8	0.4
Looney	20.3	.674		.611	0.4	0.5
Porter Jr.	19.9	.486	.386	.778	0.9	0.3
Payton II	16.7	.711	.615	.625	1.0	0.5
Bjelica	10.0	.529	.375	.571	0.3	0.1
Iguodala	10.0	.444	.333	.667	0.0	0.3
Kuminga	8.6	.500	.231	.769	0.2	0.1
Moody	8.1	.536	.538	.667	0.2	0.2
Lee	7.8	.382	.250	.667	0.1	0.0
Tandrn	3.5	.400	.400	.333	0.1	0.0
Team	--	.484	373	.762	7.5	4.9

BOSTON	G	PTS	APG	PPG
Jayson Tatum	23	6.9	6.1	26.2
Jaylen Brown	23	6.9	3.6	22.6
Marcus Smart	20	4.5	5.7	15.8
Al Horford	22	9.1	3.4	11.7
Grant Williams	23	3.9	0.8	8.9
Derrick White	22	3.1	2.7	8.8
Robert Williams	16	6.1	0.9	7.6
Payton Pritchard	23	2.0	1.6	5.0
Daniel Theis	16	3.3	0.7	4.3
Aaron Nesmith	14	1.1	0.2	0.9
Sam Hauser	6	0.2	0.3	0.8
Luke Kornet	8	0.5	0.1	0.9
Nik Stauskas	12	0.3	0.3	1.1
Malik Fitts	9	0.2	0.0	0.9
Juwon Morgan	8	0.4	0.0	0.4
Team	23	43.0	24.4	106.2

CELTICS	MIN	FG%	3P%	FT%	SPG	BPG
Tatum	41.0	.430	.396	.800	1.1	0.9
Ja.Brown	38.1	.467	.367	.760	1.1	0.4
Smart	36.1	.408	.348	.806	1.2	1.3
Horford	35.3	.514	.462	.758	0.8	0.4
G.Williams	27.7	.432	.398	.804	0.3	0.7
White	25.9	.371	.321	.824	1.0	0.6
R.Williams	22.6	.700	.000	.885	0.8	2.1
Pritchard	13.1	.430	.343	.667	0.3	0.1
Theis	12.5	.588	.214	.750	0.3	0.5
Nesmith	3.6	.235	.091	.750	0.1	0.3
Hauser	2.3	.250	.333	1.000	0.0	0.0
Kornet	2.3	.750	1.000	.000	0.0	0.0
Stauskas	1.9	.273	.333	1.000	0.0	0.0
Fitts	1.8	.750	1.000	.000	0.0	0.0
Morgan	1.8	.000	.000	.500	0.0	0.0
Team	--	.450	.373	.794	6.3	6.2

through Game 5 of Finals

WARRIORS IN NBA FINALS GAME 6		
1948-04-21	at	Bal L 73-88
1967-04-24	vs	Phi L 122-125
2015-06-16	at	Cle W 105-97
2016-06-16	at	Cle L 101-115
2019-06-13	vs	Tor L 110-114

CELTICS IN NBA FINALS GAME 6		
1957-04-11	at	STL L 94-96
1958-04-12	at	STL L 109-110
1960-04-16	at	STL L 102-105
1962-04-16	at	LAL W 119-105
1963-04-24	at	LAL W 112-109
1966-04-26	at	LAL L 115-123
1968-05-02	at	LAL W 124-109
1969-05-03	vs	LAL W 99-90
1974-05-10	vs	Mil L 101-102 (2OT)
1976-06-06	at	Phx W 87-80
1981-05-14	at	Hou W 102-91
1984-06-10	at	LAL L 108-119
1985-06-09	vs	LAL L 100-111
1986-06-08	vs	Hou W 114-97
1987-06-14	at	LAL L 93-106
2008-06-17	vs	LAL W 131-92
2010-06-15	at	LAL L 67-89

WNBA

EAST	W	L	Pct	GB
Connecticut	11	4	.733	--
Chicago	9	4	.692	1
Washington	10	7	.588	2
Atlanta	7	9	.450	3½
New York	6	7	.500	5
Indiana	4	13	.235	8
WEST	W	L	Pct	GB
Las Vegas	12	2	.857	--
Seattle	9	5	.643	3
Dallas	6	8	.429	6
Phoenix	6	9	.400	6½
Los Angeles	5	8	.385	6½
Minnesota	3	12	.200	9½

THURSDAY'S RESULT

New York 77, Washington 65

FRIDAY'S GAMES

Seattle at Connecticut, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at Dallas, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Las Vegas 92, Dallas 84
Phoenix 93, Indiana 80
Connecticut 105, Atlanta 92

TENNIS

ATP CINCH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Thursday at The Queen's Club, London, outdoors-grass
MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16
#2 Matteo Berrettini d. Denis Kudla, 3-6, 7-6(5), 6-4.
Tommy Paul d. Stan Wawrinka, 6-1, 6-4.
Ryan Peniston d. Francisco Cerundolo, 6-0, 4-6, 6-4.
Filip Krajinovic d. Sam Querrey, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

ATP TERRA WORTMANN OPEN

At Gerry Weber Stadium, Halle, Germany, outdoors-grass
MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16
#7 Roberto Bautista Agut d. Tallon Griekspoor, 6-7(6), 6-4, 6-2.
#8 Karen Khachanov d. Laslo Djere, 7-6(4), 6-4.
Oscar Otte d. Nikoloz Basilashvili, 4-6, 6-0, 7-6(3).
Daniil Medvedev, d. Ilya Ivashka, 7-6(4), 6-3.

BIRMINGHAM CLASSIC

At Edgbaston Priory Club, Birmingham, Great Britain, grass-outdoors
WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16
Dayana Yastremska d. #1 Elena Ostapenko, 3-6, 7-5, 7-5.
#3 Camila Giorgi d. Lauren Davis, 3-6, 7-5, 6-2.
#8 Zhang Shuai d. Elena-Gabriela Ruse, 6-2, 2-6, 7-5.

WTA BETT10PEN

At Am Rothemann Rot-Weiss Tennis Club, Berlin, outdoors-grass
WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16
#1 Ons Jabeur d. Alycia Parks, 6-2, 7-6(8).
#7 Coco Gauff d. Wang Xinyu, 6-0, 6-4.
#8 Belinda Bencic d. Anna Kalinskaya, 6-4, 1-6, 6-1.
Veronika Kudermetova, d. Liudmila Samsonova, 6-3, 6-7(5)

VENETO OPEN INTERNAZIONALE

At Tennis Club Gaiba, Gaiba, Italy, outdoors-grass
WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16
Tatjana Maria d. #4 Claire Liu, 7-6(3), 6-7(3), 6-3.
Katerina Baindl d. Federica Di Sarra, 6-3, 3-6, 7-5.
#6 Diane Parry d. Joanne Zuger, 6-1, 4-6, 6-4.

NHL PLAYOFFS

STANLEY CUP FINALS

Colorado 1, Tampa Bay 0
(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)
G1: June 15: Colorado, 4-3 (OT)
G2: Saturday: at Colorado, 8 p.m.
G3: Monday: at Tampa Bay, 8 p.m.
G4: June 22: at Tampa Bay, 8 p.m.
x-G5: June 24: at Colorado, 8 p.m.
x-G6: June 26: at Tampa Bay, 8 p.m.
x-G7: June 28: at Colorado, 8 p.m.

LATE WEDNESDAY/GAME 1:

DATE: WEDNESDAY / GAME 1: COLORADO 4, TAMPA BAY 3 (OT)						
Tampa Bay	1	2	0	0	-	3
Colorado	3	0	0	1	-	4

First Period: 1, Colorado, Landeskog 9 (Rantanen, Byram), 7:47-2, Colorado, Nichushkin 6 (MacKinnon), 9:23. 3, Tampa Bay, Paul 4 (Point, Hedman), 12:26. 4, Colorado, Lehtonen 7 (Landeskog, Rantanen), 17:31 (pp)
Penalties: Manson, COL (Holding Stick), 5:07; Sergachev, TB (Tripping), 15:53; Cirelli, TB (Tripping), 16:20

Second Period: 5, Tampa Bay, Palat 9 (Kucherov, McDonagh), 12:51; 6, Tampa Bay, Sergachev 2 (Cirelli, Hagel), 13:39
Penalties: Maroon, TB (Roughing), 3:41; J.Johnson, COL (Roughing), 3:41; Colorado bench, served by Newhook (Too Many Men on the Ice), 6:28

Third Period: None

Penalties: O'Connor, COL (High Stick-ing), 5:48; Maroon, TB (Delay), 18:36

Overtime: 7, Colorado, Burakovsky 2 (Nichushkin, Compher), 1:23

Shots on Goal: Tampa Bay 8-9-5-1-23; Colorado 15-10-12-1-38
Power-play opportunities: Tampa Bay 0 of 3; Colorado 1 of 3

Goalies: Tampa Bay, Vasilevskiy 12-6-0 (38 shots-34 saves); Colorado, Kuemper 7-2-0 (23-20)

A: 17,778 (18,007), 2:51

Referees: Gord Dwyer, Kelly Sutherland

Linesmen: Steve Barton, Ryan Daisy

NHL PLAYOFF OVERTIME GOALS

May-3: NYR, Malkin, Evgeni, Pit 4-3 vs. NYR, OT3, 45:58
May-5: COL, Makar, Cale, Col 2-1 vs. NAS, OT1, 8:31
May-9: WSH, Verhaeghe, Carter, Fla 3-2 vs. NYR, OT1, 4:57
May-10: EDM, Kempe, Adrian, LA 5-4 vs. EDM, OT1, 1:12
May-12: TBL, Point, Brayden, TB 4-3 vs. Tor, OT1, 18:04
May-13: Was, Verhaeghe, Carter, Fla 4-3 vs. Was, OT1, 2:46
May-15: CGY, Gaudreau, Johnny, Cgy 3-2 vs. Dal, OT1, 15:09
May-15: NYR, Panarin, Artemi, NYR 4-3 vs. Pit, OT1, 4:46
May-17: Col, Manson, Josh, Col 3-2 vs. STL, OT1, 8:02
May-18: Car, Cole, Ian, Car 2-1 vs. NYR, OT1, 3:12
May-25: Col, Bozak, Tyler, StL 5-4 vs. Col, OT1, 3:38
May-26: Cgy, McDavid, Connor, Edm 5-4 vs. Cgy, OT1, 5:03
June-6: Edm, Lehtonen, Artturi, Col 6-5 vs. Edm, OT1, 1:19
June-15: Col, Burakovsky, Andre, Col 4-3 vs. TBL, OT1, 1:23

USFL

All games in Birmingham, Ala.

NORTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
x-New Jersey	8	1	0	.889	206	159
x-Philadelphia	6	3	0	.667	239	217
Michigan	1	8	0	.111	178	215
Pittsburgh	1	8	0	.111	126	210
SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
x-Birmingham	8	1	0	.889	213	151
x-New Orleans	6	3	0	.667	193	144
Tampa Bay	4	5	0	.444	144	174
Houston	2	7	0	.222	176	205

x-clinched playoff spot

WEEK 10

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Philadelphia vs. New Jersey, noon
Birmingham vs. Tampa Bay, 4 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 19

Michigan vs. Pittsburgh, noon
New Orleans vs. Houston, 4 p.m.

PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, JUNE 25
Tom Benson HOF Stadium, Canton, Ohio
No: New Jersey vs. Philadelphia, 3 p.m.
So: Birmingham vs. New Orleans, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 3

USFL Championship
Tom Benson HOF Stadium, Canton, Ohio
North champ vs. South champ, 7:30 p.m.

INAUGURAL ALL-USFL TEAMS

ALL-OFFENSE TEAM
Quarterback: Kyle Slotter, Breakers
Running back: Darius Victor, Generals
Running back: Reggie Corbin, Panthers
Tight end: Sal Cannella, Breakers
Wide receiver: Victor Bolden, Stallions
Wide receiver: KaVontae Turpin, Generals
Off. tackle: Jarroon Jones, Breakers
Off. tackle: Terry Poole, Generals
Off. guard: Cameron Hunt, Stallions
Off. guard: Garrett McGhin, Generals
Center: Jared Thomas, Breakers

ALL-DEFENSE TEAM

Def. tackle: Reggie Howard, Breakers
Def. tackle: Toby Johnson, Generals
Def. end: Davin Bellamy, Breakers
Def. end: Chris Odum, Gamblers
Linebacker: Jerod Fernandez, Breakers
Linebacker: Donald Payne, Gamblers
Linebacker: DeMarquis Gates, Stallions
Cornerback: Will Likely, Gamblers
Cornerback: Channing Stribling, Stars
Safety: Shalom Luani, Generals
Safety: Bryce Torneden, Maulers

ALL-SPECIAL TEAMS SQUAD

Punter: Brandon Wright, Bandits
Kicker: Brandon Aubrey, Stallions
Punt ret.: KaVontae Turpin, Generals
Kick ret.: Maurice Alexander, Stars
Spec. Teamer: Victor Bolden, Stallions
source: usflfootball.com

ODDS

MLB	FRIDAY
NATIONAL LEAGUE	
FAVORITE	LINE UNDERDOG
at Washington	Off Phi (G1)
Atlanta	-182 at Chi Cubs
Milwaukee	-120 at Cincinnati
at Washington	Off Phi (G2)
San Francisco	-207 at Pittsburgh
at NY Mets	Off Miami
San Diego	-145 at Colorado
AMERICAN LEAGUE	
Tampa Bay	-135 at Baltimore
at TORONTO	Off NY Yankees
Texas	Off at Detroit
at Houston	-189 Chi White Sox
at Oakland	Off Kansas City
at Seattle	-137 LA Angels
INTERLEAGUE	
St. Louis	Off at Boston
Minnesota	-140 at Arizona
at LA Dodgers	-268 Cleveland

STANLEY CUP FINAL

FAVORITE	LINE UNDERDOG	LINE
at Colorado	-152 Tampa Bay	+140

ODDS TO WIN SERIES

Colorado	-260	Tampa Bay	+215
STANLEY CUP EXACT RESULT			
Avalanche defeat Lightning	4-1		+300
Avalanche defeat Lightning	4-2		+360
Avalanche defeat Lightning	4-3		+425
Avalanche defeat Lightning	4-4		+475
Lightning defeat Avalanche	4-3		+600
Lightning defeat Avalanche	4-2		+700
Lightning defeat Avalanche	4-1		+1200
Length of Stanley Cup Series			
6Games	+225	7Games	+165
5Games	+240	4Games	+475

For the latest odds, go to FanDuel Sportsbook, https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/

SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
New York City FC	8	3	2	26	25	10
Philadelphia	6	1	7	25	19	10
CF Montreal	7	5	2	23	28	26
N.Y. Red Bulls	6	4	5	23	24	17
Orlando City	6	5	4	22	18	21
New England	5	5	5	20	25	25
Charlotte FC	6	8	1	19	15	18
Cincinnati	6	7	1	19	21	25
Inter Miami CF	5	6	3	18	15	22
Columbus	4	5	4	16	17	16
Atlanta	4	5	4	16	20	20
Toronto FC	4	7	3	15	21	27
D.C. United	4	7	2	14	17	23
Chicago	2	7	5	11	13	20
WESTERN	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
Los Angeles FC	9	3	2	29	29	16
FC Dallas	7	3	4	25	24	13
Real Salt Lake	7	4	4	25	18	19
Austin FC	7	4	4	24	28	18
LA Galaxy	7	5	2	23	17	15
Nashville	6	4	5	23	18	16
Seattle	6	6	1	19	19	17
Houston	5	6	3	18	17	17
Minnesota United	5	6	3	18	15	15
Colorado	5	6	3	18	16	17
Vancouver	5	8	2	17	16	28
Portland	3	6	6	15	21	25
San Jose	3	6	6	15	25	32
Sporting KC	3	9	4	13	14	28

WEATHER

FRIDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

High 89°
Low 60°
Becoming partly to mostly sunny and very warm, slight chance for an afternoon shower or a thunderstorm.

SATURDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

High 70°
Low 52°
Clouds and some sun, much cooler. Very low humidity levels.

SUNDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

High 73°
Low 52°
Clouds and some sun, seasonably cool. Very low humidity levels.

MONDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

High 77°
Low 54°
Mostly sunny with very low humidity levels.

TUESDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

High 80°
Low 58°
Partly sunny and seasonable.

CONNECTICUT WEATHER

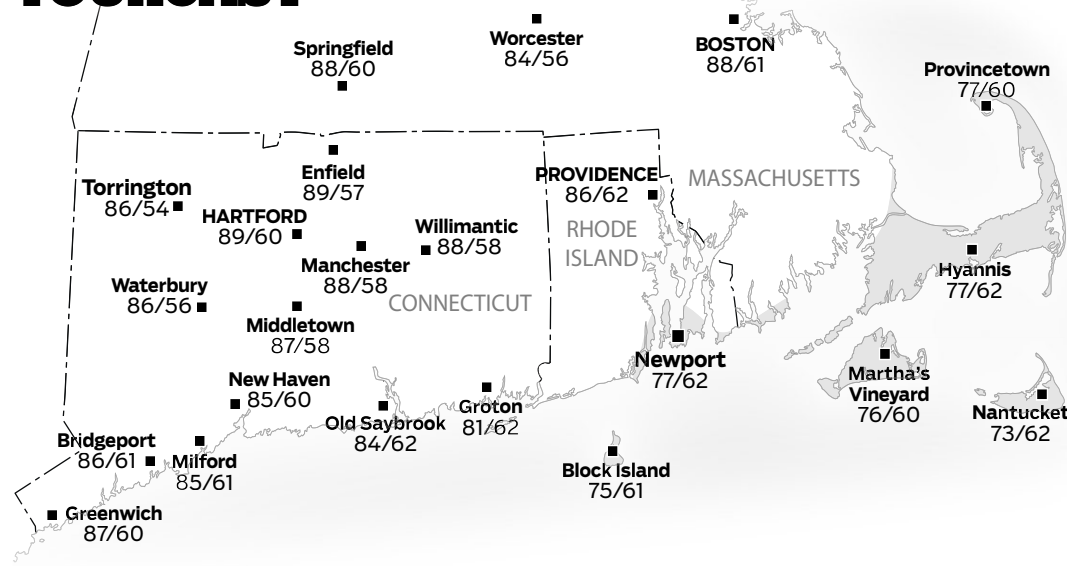
For the latest weather news throughout your day.



courant.com/weather

YOURCAST

Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



OUTLOOK

Clouds will give way to a partly to mostly sunny sky on Friday with high temperatures in the 80s, but a few towns could touch the 90-degree mark. It will be a moderately humid day with dew points in the low to mid-60s. An isolated shower or thunderstorm is possible, but most locations will remain dry. The weekend will feature significant changes with much cooler temperatures and unseasonably low dew points. There will be a mixture of clouds and sunshine both Saturday and Sunday. There are signs that next weekend the heat and humidity to the south could build into the state.

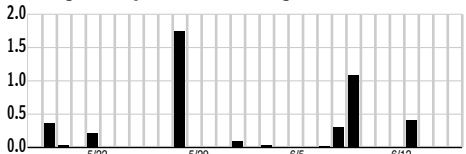
-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

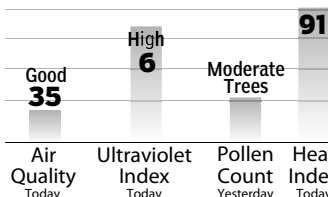
Precipitation In Inches	Total	Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.00	0.15
Month to date	1.93	2.40
Total this year	19.51	20.29

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks

30-day Precipitation History In Inches



Air Quality Forecast For Today



	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise	5:15 a.m.	5:16 a.m.
Sunset	8:28 p.m.	8:28 p.m.
Moonrise	11:54 p.m.	a.m.
Moonset	8:31 a.m.	9:49 a.m.

Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	12:32 p.m.	6:45 a.m.	69°
Saybrook Jetty	1:06 a.m.	7:38 a.m.	68°
Connecticut River at Portland	1:43 p.m.	7:47 p.m.	
Madison	3:49 a.m.	11:24 a.m.	
	4:26 p.m.	11:33 p.m.	
New Haven	1:29 a.m.	8:03 a.m.	67°
	2:08 p.m.	8:20 p.m.	
Stamford	1:49 a.m.	8:17 a.m.	67°
	2:28 p.m.	8:34 p.m.	
	1:53 a.m.	8:31 a.m.	65°
	2:32 p.m.	8:48 p.m.	

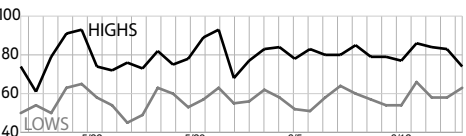
River Stage at Hartford: 3.39 feet at 6:30 p.m.

Boating Weather	L.I. Sound W	L.I. Sound E	B.I. Sound
	PCloudy	PCloudy	MCloudy
Wind	SW, 10-15	SW, 10-15	SW, 15-20
Seas	1 ft.	2-3 ft.	3-5 ft.

Temperature	High	Low
Thursday	74 at 10:43 a.m.	63 at 4:28 a.m.
Normal for date	80	58
Record for date	96 in 1967	39 in 1961
A year ago	76	57
Range this year	93	-2

Cooling Degree Days	Season	Normal	Last Season
For Jan 1 - June 16	167	106	142

30-day Temperature History



Atmosphere	High	Low
Barometer	30.19 at 7 a.m.	29.99 at 6 p.m.
Dew point	60° at 7 p.m.	56° at 11 a.m.

AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND Bangor 72 56 SH Burlington 82 49 PC Caribou 69 57 SH Concord 84 52 PC Montpelier 75 45 C Mt. Wash. 54 32 C Portland 80 55 PC Woods Hole 73 58 PC	Baltimore 96 60 PC Bismarck 84 68 S Boise 85 55 PC Buffalo 75 50 PC Charleston 97 75 S Cincinnati 86 60 PC Cleveland 84 56 PC Indianapolis 84 56 PC Jacksonville 94 74 S Las Vegas 103 73 S Miami Beach 87 78 PC Milwaukee 82 54 S	Nashville 95 67 PC New Orleans 94 79 PC New York 88 61 PC Okla. City 99 72 S Omaha 90 72 PC Orlando 93 73 PC Pittsburgh 83 53 PC Raleigh 99 69 PC St. Louis 89 69 PC Salt Lake City 99 72 PC San Antonio 95 74 PC San Diego 68 62 C	San Juan 89 78 C Tucson 97 72 PC WORLD Amsterdam 80 55 PC Athens 87 70 S Bangkok 95 81 SH Barbados 83 75 PC Beijing 94 74 PC Beirut 81 73 S Berlin 89 66 PC Bermuda 76 72 PC	Budapest 83 64 PC Buenos Aires 59 40 S Cairo 97 68 S Cancun 86 77 SH Dubai 97 86 S Dublin 68 49 C Edinburgh 68 49 SH Helsinki 60 55 SH Hong Kong 82 75 SH Istanbul 81 64 S Jerusalem 81 61 S Johannesburg 68 43 S Singapore 88 77 SH	Kingston 86 73 SH Lisbon 79 61 PC London 89 65 PC Madrid 100 68 PC Mexico City 75 54 SH Milan 91 71 S Montreal 75 48 SH Moscow 71 54 PC Nassau 85 78 PC New Delhi 95 82 SH Paris 100 64 S Prague 90 65 S Rio de Janeiro 77 66 S Rome 91 67 PC Seoul 83 68 PC Sydney 79 61 PC	Stockholm 75 52 SH Sydney 63 52 SH Tel Aviv 85 72 S Tokyo 82 69 C Toronto 74 51 S Vancouver 65 54 SH Warsaw 80 64 PC
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Open

from Page 1

eight years without a major. McIlroy made two straight birdies late in his round to become the first player to reach 4 under among early starters, only to miss the ninth green and make his only bogey for a 3-under 67 and was in a group one back of leader Adam Hadwin of Canada.

At the moment, McIlroy isn't concerned with his strong stance against LIV Golf.

"It's been eight years since I won a major," he said. "And I just want to get my hands on one again."

Even with a good start, and coming off a victory last week in the Canadian Open, it doesn't figure to be easy. The Country Club might be as accommodating as it gets all week, with moderate wind and cloud cover keeping the sun from making greens crispy and firm.

And the best anyone could do was a 66.

Collin Morikawa, trying to win a major for the third straight year, thought he might be able to take it deep — at least by U.S. Open standards — when he birdied the ninth hole to reach 3 under. But he didn't make another birdie and closed with a bogey when he had to lay up short of the gaping bunker on the 18th, duffed a pitch into the sand and scrambled for a 69.

"I think it will only get tougher," he said.

Defending champion Jon Rahm was also at 69 after hitting wild drives on his last two holes and converting one for par, another for birdie.

It already was proving tough enough for Phil Mickelson, playing on American soil for the first time since he revealed his level of support for the Saudi-backed league and played last week in the first of Greg Norman's events.



Adam Hadwin reacts on the ninth green during round one of the 122nd U.S. Open Championship on Thursday at The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts. WARREN LITTLE/GETTY

Mickelson four-putted from about 18 feet for double bogey on the par-3 sixth, dropping him to 5-over par through six holes in the afternoon.

For McIlroy, it was his second straight major — and third time in his last four U.S. Opens — he opened with a score par. There's confidence in his game for winning last week in Toronto, and there's passion rare for a Thursday unless the game is going badly.

He tried to drive the reachable par-4 fifth hole and caught an awkward lie in the thick collar above a bunker, forcing him to stand in the sand. He hit that into another bunker, and then twice slammed the club into the sand out of frustration. But he managed to save par.

"You're going to encounter things at a U.S. Open, whether they be lies or stuff like that, that you just don't really encounter any other week," he said. "It's hard not to get frustrated because I'm walking up there going, 'Just come back into the bunker.' The thickest rough on the course is around the edges of the bunker. So I was sort of cursing the USGA whenever I was

going up to the ball." And then from the ninth fairway, his approach sailed to the right and he flung his club. He couldn't save par on that one and had to accept a 67 — not a bad start, and no apologies for his few outbursts of emotion.

"Almost to remind yourself sometimes how much it means to you," he said.

There's a lot on the table outside of golf, too, with 13 players at the U.S. Open who took part in the Saudi-backed LIV Golf last week, leading the PGA Tour to suspend those members.

McIlroy, the first to shut down talk of rival leagues in 2020, spoke passionately this week about building on the legacy handed down by Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus. For those taking the guaranteed money for 54-hole events, he said it felt like "the easy way out."

But now it's time for golf, and there a vibe of relief that focus could turn to a U.S. Open that first came to Brookline more than a century ago. Thursday was more about birdies and bogeys — mostly the latter in a U.S. Open — and a place in history.

GOLF TRAVELERS CHAMPIONSHIP

Tourney announces field with a strong UConn flavor for Wednesday's annual celebrity pro-am

Staff report

A number of familiar faces will be participating in the return of the Travelers Championship Celebrity Pro-Am, the tournament announced on Thursday.

Scheduled to participate in the annual fan favorite on Wednesday — which returns to the Tournament Players Club at River Highlands after a two-year absence — are UConn women's basketball coaches Geno Auriemma and Chris Dailey, UConn

football coach Jim Mora and hockey coach Mike Cavanaugh. Also joining the field are UConn field hockey coach Nancy Stevens and former Huskies quarterback Dan Orlovsky.

The UConn contingent will be joined by EPSN personalities Chris Berman and Michael Eaves, as well as former pro athletes Tim Wakefield, Doug Flutie and Andre Tippett. From the entertainment world, actors Bill Murray, Dane DeHaan and Christopher Jackson are also scheduled to appear.

"We're excited to provide the fans

with an opportunity to be entertained and enjoy themselves with this year's Celebrity Pro-Am," said Tournament Director Nathan Grube. "The event is always a fun part of tournament week, which is pivotal in helping local charities, with all net proceeds being donated."

The pro-am will be the first chance spectators have to visit the course during tournament week. The Travelers then begins on Thursday and runs through June 26 with Harris English as the defending champion.

AMATEUR BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEGION

WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS

Zone 1 WEST HARTFORD 9, SIMSBURY 6
Zone 3 RCP POST 11, TRI-COUNTY 1
ENFIELD 5, GLASTONBURY 4
MIDDLETOWN 4, WINDSOR LOCKS/ WINDSOR 1
Zone 6 WILLMANTIC 8, DANIELSON 0
Note: AJ Rooks pitched a 3-hit shutout with 15 strikeouts, 1 walk. Gavin Covell was 3-for-4 with 2 doubles, 3 RBI, 2 runs scored and Nolan Klimkiewicz had an RBI double and 2 runs scored.
THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Zone 1 TORRINGTON AT WEST HARTFORD, LATE
MERIDEN AT BRISTOL, LATE
Zone 2 BRANFORD AT MADISON, LATE
Zone 3 GLASTONBURY AT MIDDLETOWN, LATE
TRI-COUNTY AT WINDSOR LOCKS/ WINDSOR, LATE
Zone 6 DANIELSON AT WILLMANTIC, LATE
FRIDAY'S SCHEDULE
Zone 1: Bristol at Simsbury, 6:30 p.m.
Zone 3: Enfield at Northeast, 5:45 p.m.; South Windsor at Glastonbury, 6:30 p.m.; RCP Post at EHM, 7 p.m.; Windsor Locks/Windsor at Middletown, 7 p.m.
CONNECTICUT TWILIGHT LEAGUE
WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULT
KNIGHTS 10, DODGERS 4
THURSDAY'S RESULTS
AFTERSHOCK AT BLACK SOX, LATE
KNIGHTS AT ANGELS, LATE
ORIOLES AT ROCKIES, LATE
FRIDAY'S SCHEDULE
Rock Cats at Patriots, 6 p.m.
GREATER HARTFORD TWILIGHT LEAGUE
WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULT
PHILLIES 8, JETS 4
THURSDAY'S RESULT
PHILLIES AT GREENERS, LATE
FRIDAY'S SCHEDULE
Orioles at Expos, 6 p.m.
Greeners at Colts, 6 p.m.
People's at Graphics, 7 p.m.
PETE KOKINIS BASEBALL LEAGUE
WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS
19u COPPERHEADS-TORRINGTON 11, ROCKY HILL 11
16u COPPERHEADS-TORRINGTON 17, NOR'EASTERS-NEWINGTON 6
14u FARMINGTON 5, CT BULLDOGS-WETHERFIELD 0
Note: Connor Valentine tossed a 1-hit shutout with 9 strikeouts for Farmington.
NEWINGTON RAIDERS 13, AHERN WHALEN-MIDDLETOWN 0

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

19u
SOUTHINGTON HITMEN AT AHERN WHALEN-MIDDLETOWN, LATE
PLAINVILLE DEVILS AT NEW BRITAIN PARKS & REC, LATE

FRIDAY'S SCHEDULE

19u: Farmington at Rocky Hill, 5:45p.m.

EASTERN LEAGUE

Standings		W	L	PCT	GB
Northeast					
Hartford	38	21	.644	—	
Somerset	38	21	.644	—	
New Hampshire	27	32	.458	11	
Portland	25	34	.424	13	
Reading	25	34	.424	13	
Binghamton	22	37	.373	16	
Southwest					
Akron	34	25	.576	—	
Richmond	34	25	.576	—	
Erie	32	27	.542	2	
Altoona	29	30	.492	5	
Harrisburg	27	32	.458	7	
Bowie	23	36	.390	11	

WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS

AKRON 13, HARTFORD 3
ALTOONA 5, ERIE 4
BINGHAMTON 13-0, BOWIE 1-4
SOMERSET 2-4, NEW HAMPSHIRE 0-3
PORTLAND 6, READING 1

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

ERIE AT ALTOONA, LATE
RICHMOND AT HARRISBURG, LATE
SOMERSET AT NEW HAMPSHIRE, LATE
BINGHAMTON AT BOWIE, LATE
AKRON AT HARTFORD, LATE
PORTLAND AT READING, LATE

FRIDAY'S SCHEDULE

Erie at Altoona, 6p.m.
Akron at Hartford, 7p.m.
Portland at Reading, 7p.m.
Richmond at Harrisburg, 7p.m.
Somerset at New Hampshire, 7p.m.
Binghamton at Bowie, 7p.m.

WNBA

Standings		W	L	PCT	GB
Eastern					
Connecticut	11	4	.733		
Chicago	9	4	.692		
Washington	10	6	.625	1.	
Atlanta	7	7	.500	3.	
New York	5	9	.357	5.	
Indiana	4	13	.235		
Western					
Las Vegas	12	2	.857		
Seattle	9	5	.643		
Dallas	6	8	.429		
Phoenix	6	9	.400	6.	
Los Angeles	5	8	.385	6.	
Minnesota	3	12	.200	9.	

WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS

CONNECTICUT 105, ATLANTA 92
PHOENIX 93, INDIANA 80

THURSDAY'S RESULT

WASHINGTON AT NEW YORK, LATE

FRIDAY'S SCHEDULE

Seattle at Connecticut, 7p.m.
Phoenix at Dallas, 8p.m.
Atlanta at Chicago, 8p.m.

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